Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred
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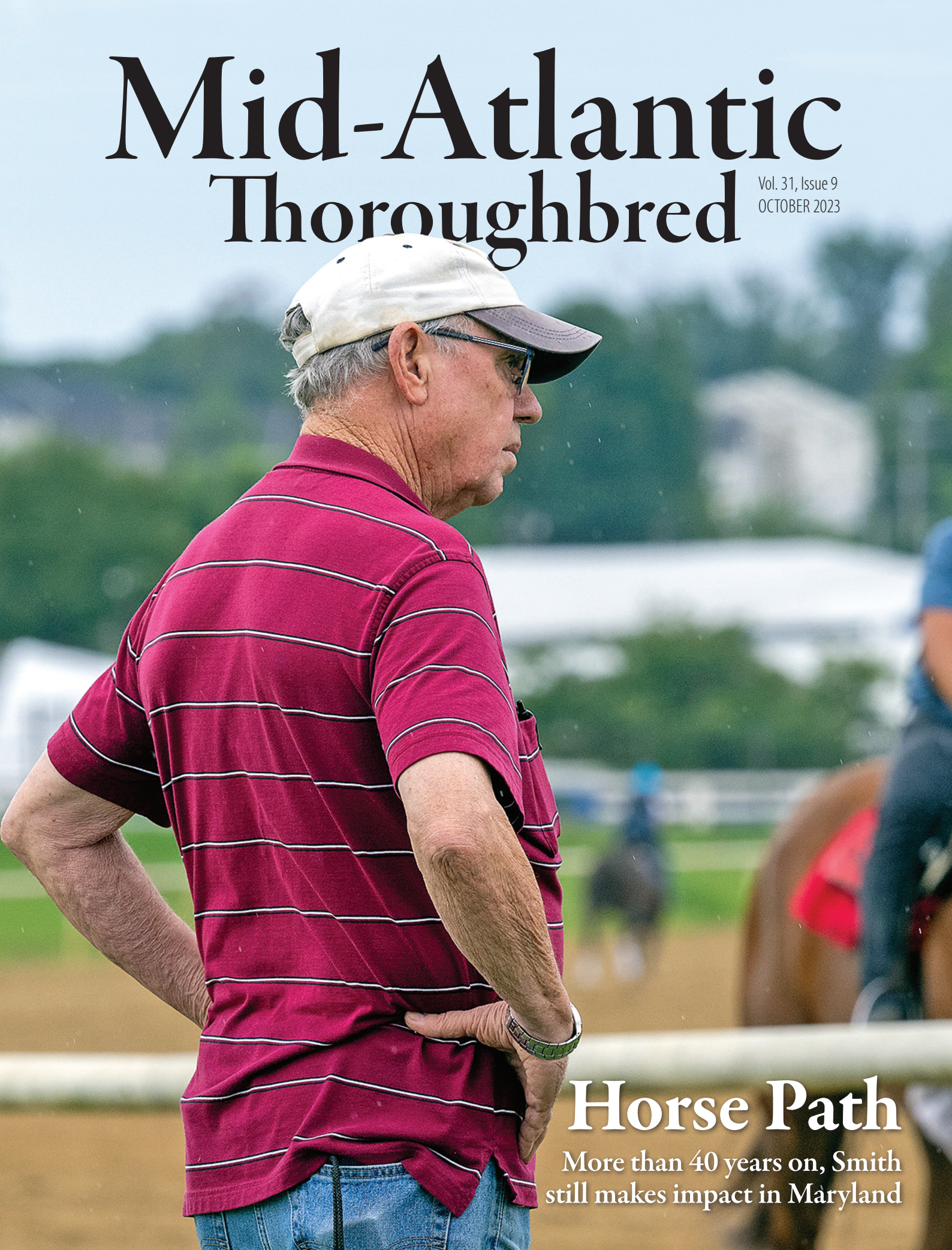

Horse Path

More than 40 years on, Smith still makes impact in Maryland

Country Life and Merryland: 174 Years of Maryland Horsemanship

Country Life Farm–Est. 1933 ■ *Merryland Farm–Est. 1939*

Before They're Off To The Races
By William Boniface
Danny Shea watches four thoroughbreds work out on his Merryland Farm where they

Returning to his Merryland Farm from service in World War II, legendary Maryland horseman Danny Shea watches a set go in 1946.

Ellen B. Pons

Jim McCue

RESPONSE TIME winning $100,000 Timonium Distaff on Aug 26. Country Life-bred, earner of $460,658, by Country Life sire MOSLER. Trained by Hamilton Smith, RESPONSE TIME is owned by the Mens Grille Racing stable of Dave and Lori Hughes, patrons of our Merryland training facility.

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Smith plies training trade, 40 years on

A man of few words, just ask his friends, Hamilton "Hammy" Smith has built a career of training excellence in Maryland by way of South Carolina, the Navy and decades in the business. This month's Maryland Million is always a goal. By Vinnie Perrone. Page 26

Health Notes: StrideSAFE brings technology, data

Biometric sensors show promise in diagnosing potential injuries in horses as they train and race. By Jen Roytz. Page 36

Sculptor melds interests into art

Pennsylvania artist Kathleen Friedenberg gets to the details in her work thanks to an early interest in veterinary medicine and equine anatomy and behavior. By Sandra McKee. Page 40

Tracksides: Monmouth Park, Charles Town, Timonium

As always, summer brings plenty of action at regional racetracks. At Monmouth, trainer Lindsay Schultz leaps into her career; at Charles Town, Coastal Mission stands up for the locals; at Timonium, Maryland delights in the state fair meet. By John Piassek. Page 46

Steeplechase Times: Merry Maker enjoys Grade 1

Further scrambling the championship division, Merry Maker pulls an upset in the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory, weeks after Awakened landed the Jonathan Sheppard. By Joe Clancy. Page 62

Steeplechase Times: Jockey Geraghty retires

After nearly 30 years as a jockey in Ireland and the United States, Ross Geraghty hangs up his tack one last time. By Joe Clancy. Page 66

On our cover: Hamilton Smith. *Photo by Jerry Dzierwinski*

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JIM McKAY
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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 31, Issue 9

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Post Time

STEPPING STONE. Axel Concepcion takes a moment on his way to the paddock for a ride at Timonium this summer. The 18-year-old had won 165 races, 10th in the nation and tops among apprentices, through Sept. 18.

Scott Serio / Eclipse Sportswire

JIM McKAY

Maryland Million Day 2023

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Say It Again

"He was standing there with cigarette in his mouth and his arms folded. I got a wink and a smile and that was it."
Jump jockey Ross Geraghty, about trainer Tom Voss' reaction after Your Sum Man (Ire) won the 2009 American Grand National

"At least I'm going in order."
Geraghty, trying to keep writer Joe Clancy on tack while discussing Grade 1 wins

"I think this filly's going to be famous."
Country Life Farm's Mike Pons, about a Maryland-bred daughter of Gun Runner who sold for $775,000 at Saratoga

"If you're running through hell, just keep running."
Pons, with business advice for anyone in the Thoroughbred industry

"I try not to get too emotionally invested until it's over. Once it's over I get emotionally invested, for sure."
Trainer Arch Kingsley, about watching his horses run

"To me, two things that really work in racing are paddock schooling and standing at the gate. It's therapy that you can see concrete results from, so we do it."
Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher, while paddock schooling 2-year-old champion Forte at Saratoga

Names of the Month

Ritamarley. Caroline Forgason's homebred 3-year-old filly, out of Rasta Farian, is named for Rita Marley, a singer/songwriter, entrepreneur and widow of Reggae legend Bob Marley. She is the founder and chairperson of the Robert Marley Foundation, Bob Marley Trust and the Bob Marley Group of Companies. The Rita Marley Foundation is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that works to alleviate poverty and hunger in developing countries. Ritamarley the horse finished sixth in her debut at Pimlico Sept. 17.

Ride the Rapids. Super C Racing's 3-year-old filly is by Long River out of Get Set Go. The Maryland-bred was second at Charles Town Sept. 16.

Future Is Now. Owner/breeder Larry Johnson's 3-year-old filly, a winner at Colonial Downs and Pimlico this summer, is out of Past as Prelude.

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Remembering Manganaro: The world of Thoroughbred racing lost a great friend and advocate with the passing of Anthony Manganaro, 79, in August. The Racing Biz visited with former MRC chair Michael Algeo, and remembered Manganaro's behind-the-scenes role in Maryland.

Timetable for closing Pimlico to training remains unclear: While the Maryland Jockey Club is moving forward with plans to close Pimlico to training and stabling, when that might occur remains uncertain. Frank Vespe reports.

Emma Wolfe: "The days are long, but I love what I do": Brittany Russell's barn has had an exceptional season at Delaware Park, and assistant trainer Emma Wolfe is seizing the moment reports Mike Valiante.

Backtracks – The mighty Mill Reef: Paul Mellon's Virginia-bred Mill Reef raced in Europe – and how he raced – becoming the best turf horse in the world at the height of his career.

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Gun Runner filly helps Country Life find big-league moment at Saratoga

By Joe Clancy

Friends – good friends who can get away with it – semi-regularly reminded Mike Pons that Country Life Farm's performance at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga select yearling sale looked a little bit like the Washington Generals.

Happy to be there sharing a court with the Globetrotters, but without much chance of winning.

No more, friends, no more.

A Country Life-bred and -raised daughter of Gun Runner sold for $775,000 Aug. 8 to crack the top 25 overall, make the top 10 among fillies and give Country Life the confidence to keep lacing up the sneakers for one of the world's top yearling sales. The Maryland farm, founded in 1933 by Adolphe Pons and now run by his grandsons Mike and Josh, is a regional leader when it comes to stallions, mares, yearlings, a racing partnership full of competitive runners and pretty much any yardstick you want to pull out of the cabinet. Muscling into the national picture can be a challenge, however, and recent Saratoga sales results of $90,000 (the third least-expensive offering) in 2022 and $50,000 (the least expensive) in 2018 only emphasized the point.

"We had some sort of motherly advice . . . and I'm not going to tell you who it was . . . but she said to Josh and me, 'You know, you guys have sold two of the lowest-priced yearlings at Saratoga the last few years,' " Mike said. "It was the kind of advice your mom would give you while looking at your report card like, 'You can do better than this.' "

So they tried to. Country Life crafted a different approach with the Gun Runner filly, whose half-brother by Bolt d'Oro brought $90,000 last year. Foaled in April 2022, she grew up like the rest of the 2022 class – outside all day weather-permitting, separated with the fillies by January/February, getting handled, coming in for grooming sessions and the rest.

By May, when the others were taking their first steps toward the Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show, she went to Kentucky's Chanteclair Farm.

"She was the most valuable horse on the farm, and we were worried she was going to get overlooked with all the stuff we had going on," said Mike. "We were still foaling mares, the yearling show prep was coming, all of the usual stuff."

"She was a good filly, pretty straightforward and always good-minded, one of the ones you wish they all were like," said Christy Holden, Country Life's general manager. "We sent her down because it was coming out of winter and our paddocks were mud and dirt and no grass. The Kentucky fields don't seem to have the downturn we have. We just thought, 'This is a nice filly by the hottest sire in the country, let's send her down to Kentucky and let her have good grass, good paddocks.' I remember being at the yearling show this year and thinking, 'Man, we don't even have our best one here.' Knowing she was in the right spot made it OK."

Knowing how it all turned out two weeks later made it better than OK. Based on photos sent by Sandy and John Stuart of consignor Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services, Holden thought the filly went through an awkward stage early in the summer but the timing actually worked for her.

"She came out of it at the prefect time," she said. "Johnny texted me and said she was really starting to impress him."

At Saratoga as Hip 174, she impressed plenty of others.

"I saw her show on Friday morning [four days before she sold] the fifth or sixth time she showed, and I saw her Tuesday night at quarter to six," said Mike. "She was as good as she was on Friday."

ELLEN B. PONS

Country Life Farm's Gun Runner filly out of Starr of Quality romps on the Maryland farm in the spring of 2022.

Solis/Litt Bloodstock made the winning bid, outrunning Spendthrift Farm in a back-and-forth from $400,000 to $775,000. From his lucky horse-in-the-ring spot (he's not telling), Pons watched and smiled as it all played out – though he had to take a moment.

"I had to look at the board, and my catalog, and the filly in the ring just to make sure it really happened," he said after the highest-value sale in Country Life history. "It was pretty cool to watch. It was the right filly, and the right people, at the right time, at the right sale."

After stressing through last year live at Saratoga, Holden stayed home and watched on her computer.

"My son and husband were watching me stare at the computer and I was like, 'Oh my God . . . Oh my God.' They knew it wasn't a horse race, but they weren't sure what it was. To see the bids keep going, I was losing my mind. It was quite a thrill. The next morning, I bought donuts for the crew. We raised her, got her going, when I walked in the barn in the morning, they all knew too. They were excited about it. We can raise a good horse in Maryland. To get the respect is nice."

The result is the product of a bigger-picture shift by Country Life and its broodmare partnerships, which have purchased in-foal mares in Kentucky to support farm stallions for years. The model typically involved older mares with deeper produce records, but Starr of Quality joined the team because of her race record (six wins, one in a California-bred stakes, $307,529). Carrying her first foal, the Bolt d'Oro colt, she cost $72,000 at Keeneland November 2020.

"It's interesting what these mares can do," said Mike. "We got into her form, and she had some real quality as a racehorse. It was a new way of looking at things for us. Prior to that we were buying older mares with more of a produce record, and it just seemed like that wasn't really working at the price point we were working at."

As a $90,000 yearling held back by some sesamoiditis at Saratoga 2022, the Bolt d'Oro colt didn't change the equation, but Country Life stuck with the plan.

"We supported Divining Rod and Mosler to get them off the ground," Pons said of farm stallions and the thinking behind buying broodmares. "Once we'd done that, I was free to breed mares to higher-octane Kentucky sires."

John Stuart had a season to Gun Runner, and Starr of Quality went to Three Chimneys Farm's sire star whose 2023 Saratoga results also included fillies who brought $1 million and $850,000. The Bolt d'Oro colt (named Fulmineo) won at Colonial Downs Sept. 2, Starr of Quality delivered an Improbable colt this year and is in foal to Gun Runner's son Cyberknife for 2024.

Her daughter, bred in Maryland by Country Life and the Starr of Quality LLC (Dr. Peter Bloom, Tim Burr, Kevin Edwards, Joe Fonte, Jim Guidera, Dave McKenney, John Stuart's High Peak Farm, Harold Rottman, David and Diana Sedney and Mike Stone) will race for LNJ Foxwoods.

"One of the downfalls to selling at those bigger sales is they end up all over – California, Kentucky, wherever – we don't get to see them sometimes," said Holden. "LNJ is on the East Coast, and she could end up at Fair Hill and we could get to see her run which would be fun."

Mike Pons can't wait for the filly to race, for the chance to take another quality yearling to Saratoga, nor for the opportunity to tell friends about the success.

"Somebody was teasing me and said, 'That might have been more money than all your other horses sold for combined,' " he said. "They laughed and it's all in fun. You know, there's always a poke and a prod, but a smile too. People want to see you do well."

Hey Mike Pons, what was it like to represent Country Life Farm for a $775,000 yearling at Saratoga?

"I stood in the shower that night thinking, 'Did that really happen?' I gave up drinking 10 years ago, but in the morning I felt like I was hungover. I went to say goodbye to the filly at 7 o'clock the next morning, just to thank her and tell her what she meant to us." ■

Foreman appointed to new role with HISA

Marylander Alan Foreman accepted the new position of national ombudsman for the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority and Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit.

The chairman and chief executive officer of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations, Foreman will serve as ombudsman on behalf of HISA's rules, with a primary focus on the Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program.

As the national ombudsman, which is modeled after the World Anti-Doping Agency's Ombuds Program, Foreman's responsibilities include: serving as an impartial and unbiased resource for covered persons and other Thoroughbred industry constituents to provide confidential advice and assistance at no cost in relation to the ADMC Program and the Racetrack Safety Program; accepting feedback and comments with respect to the rules comprising both programs and communicating such feedback and comments to HISA and/or HIWU; providing advice to HISA and HIWU about the content and interpretation of the rules.

In addition to Foreman's current position with the THA, which he is maintaining, Foreman is recognized as a leading racing law and equine attorney in the United States, with expertise in medication, drug testing, equine safety and welfare. His practice encompasses all aspects of equine and horse racing law, and he is counsel to many horsemen's and racing industry organizations, including the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, National Steeplechase Association and the United States Equestrian Federation Drugs and Medications Program.

Continued page 16

Virginia has lots of ways to play

Virginia Breeders

NEW Beginning in with foals of 2024, Virginia breeders will earn bonuses for registered Virginia-breds finishing 1st through 3rd in open races in North America (state-bred and state-sired races are excluded except at Colonial Downs and NSA sanctioned meets in Virginia*). Foals must be dropped in Virginia and the foal's dam must reside in Virginia from September 1st, 2023, until foaling the following year. Mares purchased at public sale after September 1st may enter the program if they arrive at a Virginia Facility within fifteen days of the purchase date (60 days if purchased outside of the U.S.).
*Pending VA Commission approval

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Developers

VA-Certified Developers:
Developers of VA-Certified horses earn up to a 25% bonus for open wins in the Mid-Atlantic region (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, WV), including NSA-sanctioned meets. VA-Certified Developers earn a 10% bonus for state-bred-restricted races in the Mid-Atlantic region. (Beginning with foals of 2023, bonuses will not be earned for wins in West Virginia).

VA-Bred or Sired Developers:
Beginning with foals of 2021, the developer will earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Virginia-Bred/Sired/ Certified Owners

- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals prior to 2021 earn up to a 25% bonus on wins in the Mid-Atlantic region, including NSA-sanctioned meets.
- Owners of VA-bred/sired foals earn a 50% bonus on purses 1st-4th in all open races at Colonial Downs.
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Foreman informed HISA and HIWU that he will donate all compensation in connection with his duties as ombudsman to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

"I applaud HISA and HIWU for creating this important position and am honored that they have asked me to serve," Foreman said. "It is vital for all covered persons and organizations to have a trusted advocate and resource for them in this new system, and I will do my best to be fair, objective, effective and meaningful."

Industry participants interested in utilizing the service can reach Foreman via email alan@foremanlaw.net or phone at (410) 336-0525.

Virginia-bred leads region's early Keeneland September returns

A $1.05 million Not This Time colt bred in Virginia by Audley Farm Equine led the way among Mid-Atlantic-bred yearlings sold at Keeneland September through Sept. 17. The bay colt, consigned by St. George Sales, went to Lane's End Bloodstock for the partnership of West Point Thoroughbreds and Talla Racing. Out of the winning Exchange Rate mare Foreign Affair, the colt was sold for $375,000 by Audley as a weanling last November. He is a half-brother to the winning Justify filly How Lovely from the family of group/graded winners So Perfect and Cowtown Cat.

The seven-figure return was part of a strong group of Virginia-bred yearlings at the sale. Five others brought $220,000 or more, including a $335,000 Audley-bred Munnings colt out of Hazy Glow (Ire). Consigned by Michael and Julia O'Quinn, the chestnut sold for $90,000 as a weanling last November. A chestnut Gun Runner filly out of Allwewantforxmas, sold for $325,000, was bred by Larry Johnson and is a half-sister to four winners including stakes winner Spun Glass. West Point, via Lane's End Bloodstock, made the purchase. South Gate Farm sold a homebred Gun Runner colt out of stakes winner Crimson Frost (by Stormy Atlantic) for $310,000 to Greg Tramontin. Breeder Ann Mudge Backer of Smitten Farm sold a $300,000 Gun Runner colt out of Summertime Green (to Donegal Racing) and a $220,000 Not This Time colt out of Belvedera (to Colts Neck Stable).

A Virginia-bred Not This Time colt out of Foreign Affair brought $1.05 million.

Buying for Calvin Nguyen and Joey Tran, Richard Baltas spent $500,000 on a Maryland-bred colt by Maclean's Music out of Make Amends. Consigned by Blake-Albina Thoroughbreds, the bay was bred by Country Life Farm and the Make Amends LLC and sold for $140,000 as a weanling in November. Swynford Management bought a Maryland-bred Medaglia d'Oro colt out of Curlin's Fox for $325,000. Consigned by Elite, the bay was bred by The Elkstone Group.

Agent Donato Lanni, on behalf of SF Racing, Starlight Racing and Madaket Stable, spent $435,000 on a Pennsylvania-bred Practical Joke colt out of Mony'slittlegracie. Bred by Betsy Barr, the bay colt sold for $60,000 as a weanling at Keeneland. ■

Magee wins 1,000th as trainer

Kieron Magee has done remarkably well at a job he never really wanted.

Nearly two decades ago, working as an exercise rider for trainer Dale Capuano after having freelanced on the Maryland circuit for years, Magee knew a career change was coming.

Training horses? It wasn't at the top of his list or even on his list.

"I galloped horses since I was a kid, but my heart was running out. I broke my back twice and I was scared. I was 43 or 44, somewhere around there, and my heart was coming to an end quickly," Magee, 62, said. "One of my owners, a guy called Bo Williams, said to me, 'Kieron, it's time you started training horses.' I said, 'Nah, I'm not going to do that.' "

Williams and Magee's wife, Kelly, thought differently and their persistence paid off. The reluctant trainer put together a career with multiple meet titles at Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park, more than $20 million in purse earnings and more than 1,000 wins.

Magee's 1,000th came Aug. 27 at Timonium when Moshe Mark's Viking Queen got up in the final strides as the 1-5 favorite. It was the sixth career win for the 5-year-old mare, claimed by Magee for $5,000 two starts earlier.

"It felt like it took forever, but I'm glad to put it behind me as they say," Magee said. "It's more than I ever dreamed would happen, believe me. I didn't want to do this when it was presented to me. I'd watched so many people struggle doing this and I was like, 'I don't want to do this.' So, to hit the thousand mark is huge. Huge."

His father was working for Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis when Magee was born, but they returned to County Wicklow in Ireland, where he passed a love of horses to his son. Magee eventually came back to the U.S. and landed in Maryland where, starting at Timonium, he worked as an exercise rider.

"Toward the end I went on salary for Dale Capuano for four or five years. There were some others I galloped for along the way, but mostly I freelanced," Magee said. "I started galloping here in 1983. It was $5 a head at the time. Times have changed."

At the same time, Magee said, he was battling substance abuse issues that landed him in rehab more than once before getting clean. He saddled his first winner, Cry of the Loon, in 1999 at Monmouth Park, but wouldn't turn to training full time for another eight years.

"I thought maybe I'd get a job driving a truck or something like that. I kept saying there's no sense in my doing this. I'd watched people struggle all their lives with this and not win many races and go broke along the way and I just can't do it," Magee said. "[Williams] said, 'That doesn't mean you'll be like that.' I didn't want to do it. I had a wife and a daughter and didn't want to do it. Well, he talked me into it and my wife talked me into it."

Magee took one horse for Williams, who sent three more with a

JIM MCCUE

A crowd showed up after trainer Kieron Magee won the 1,000th race of his career at Timonium Aug. 27. The group included (from left) director of racing Bill Reightler, Carol Cedeno, racing secretary Georganne Hale, Magee, Fran Burns, Maryland State Fair racing committee chairman Bill Marlow, Kelly Magee, Kierra Magee and Timonium president Gerry Brewster.

"You can't make a living on one horse" warning. Longtime client Helen Marshall came on board next and off the stable went.

Magee's starters, wins and purse earnings steadily climbed, topping $1 million for the first time in a season in 2014. He averaged 117 wins over the next three years, capped by a high of 127 in 2017 to go along with more than $2.5 million in purses earned, also a career best.

From 2014-16 no trainer won more races in Maryland. He owns or shares 10 meet titles – four at Pimlico, home since the early 1980s, and six at Laurel, including its spring stand that ended May 7.

"I have to say I worked for some good people and not so good people and sort of combined it all," Magee said. "I learned a lot from Dale Capuano. I did a short stint and worked for Scott Lake for a little while. He's not a big galloper, he's a big jogger. When I worked for him, he was winning a lot of races. That was in the mid-90s when he was rolling."

Though his success has primarily come with claiming horses, Magee has trained several stakes winners and multiple six-figure earners. His best was Artful Splatter, a mare he claimed for $16,000 in 2019 who would go on to win Laurel's Geisha and Delaware Park's George Rosenberger Memorial in 2020.

Line of Best Fit won her first start after joining Magee in 2016 and the following year ran third behind two-time champion Songbird in the Delaware Handicap-G1. A $20,000 claim, Struth won the Hockessin Stakes at Delaware and Howard Bender Memorial at Laurel in 2017. Magee's current top horse is Classier, a $40,000 claim out of a March 19 win at Laurel. He won the off-the-turf Henry S. Clark Stakes April 29 at Laurel.

Through Sept. 17, Magee had 61 wins and $1.6 million in purse earnings from 260 starts.

"When they're supposed to win it's not a big deal, but when you don't expect anything and something good happens, that makes it so much more fun," Magee said. "Let me tell you, there were many times along the way where we struggled to make payroll, pay our bills and everything else. It hasn't always been easy."

– Phil Janack, Maryland Jockey Club

Go Figure

133.40 Win payoff ($2) for Pennsylvania-bred Manayunk, who upset the seventh race at Parx Racing Sept. 11 for Prime Ventures and trainer Anthony Carango.

13 Lifetime wins for Cross Border, who won Delaware Park's Cape Henlopen Stakes Sept. 16. The 9-year-old started 2023 with a maiden win over hurdles in March, but hadn't won on the flat since December 2021.

18 Maryland-breds in the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover to lead regional states. The list includes 16 Pennsylvania-breds, five New Jersey-breds, four Virginia-breds and four West Virginia-breds. The event is Oct. 11-14 at the Kentucky Horse Park. For more, see therrp.org.

20,000 Dollars donated to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund by Delaware Park Casino and Racing, the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Delaware Jockeys Health and Welfare Benefit Fund and Delaware Park Jockeys Association. Presented at the track's owners' day, the donation began with $1 per mount from the jockeys and was matched by the various associations.

20,000 Dollars donated to Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue and the Canter Delaware retired racehorse program by Delaware Park Casino and Racing and Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association at Owners Day.

VINDICTIVE

GSP son of Champion UNCLE MO

MO REASONS:

Defeated multiple G1 winner and Champion **Cody's Wish** in winning a MdSpWt at Saratoga and second by a neck to multiple GSW **First Captain** in the **Pimlico Special (G3).**

By Champion 2YO **UNCLE MO** ($150,000 stud fee), out of **EXOTIC BLOOM**, who has produced three-time G1 winner, Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) winner and Champion **STOPCHARGINGMARIA** ($3,014,000), who sold for **$4.4 million.**

Trained by Hall of Famer Todd Pletcher, who described Vindictive as a typical Uncle Mo with great size, mental competitiveness, and definite Grade 1-winning ability whose career was cut short. Ran a 98 Beyer in winning his final start at Belmont Park in May.

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Uncle Mo-Exotic Bloom, by Montbrook

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

August 5 – September 6

Maryland-bred

FIELD PASS, gr./ro.h., 2017, Lemon Drop Kid—Only Me, by Runaway Groom. B-Mark Grier; O-Three Diamonds Farm; T-Mike Maker. $75,000 Find S, Laurel, Aug. 19.

GOLD DIGGING BROAD, ch.f., 2020, Mineshaft—Brushed by Love, by Not For Love. B-LRM Stable; O-Jean Mahoney; T-Miguel Vera. $75,000 All Brandy S, Laurel, Aug. 19.

RESPONSE TIME, dk.b./br.m., 2018, Mosler—Dominus Effect, by Dominus. B-Country Life Farm; O-Mens Grille Racing; T-Hamilton Smith. $100,000 Timonium Distaff S, Timonium, Aug. 26.

New Jersey-bred

GREAT NAVIGATOR, dk.b./br.c., 2020, Sea Wizard—All Even, by Stephen Got Even. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $125,000 Charles Hesse III H, Monmouth Park, Sept. 4.

MIA'S CRUSADE, b.f., 2019, Greenpointcrusader—Mini Moneigh, by Mo Mon. B-Dianne Boyken; O-Joseph Ioia, Gayle Ioia & Chuck Spina; T-Chuck Spina. $100,000 Eleven North H, Monmouth Park, Aug. 27.

SPEAKING, dk.b./br.g., 2019, Mr Speaker—High Noon Nellie, by Silver Deputy. B/O-Holly Crest Farm; T-Eddie Owens Jr. $100,000 New Jersey Breeders H, Monmouth Park, Aug. 27.

Pennsylvania-bred

BUY LAND AND SEE, gr./ro.h., 2017, Cairo Prince—Twiggles, by Maria's Mon. B/O-Joe Imbesi; T-Guadalupe Preciado. $100,000 Storm Cat S, Parx, Aug. 21.

CARMELINA, b.f., 2021, Maximus Mischief—Complete St., by St Averil. B-Lillith Boucher; O-Cash is King & LC Racing; T-Robert Reid Jr. $100,000 Keswick S, Colonial, Aug. 5.

GAMBOLING GHOST, gr./ro.g., 2021, Weigelia—Dancingwithdebbie, by Mizzen Mast. B-Cynthia Bartkowski & Scott Bunker; O-Calypso Stable; T-Jason DaCosta. $100,000 Whistle Pig S, Parx, Aug. 21.

GOING UP, b.g., 2021, Mineshaft—Shush Up, by Silent Name (Jpn). B/O-Tammy & Robert Klimasewski; T-Ron Potts. $100,000 Hickory Tree S, Colonial, Aug. 5.

GORDIAN KNOT, b.g., 2020, Social Inclusion—Mia, by Put It Back. B-Mr. & Mrs. Joe Imbesi; O-Joe Imbesi; T-Guadalupe Preciado. $75,000 Salvatore M. DeBunda Sprint S, Parx, Aug. 22.

JODY'S RUBY, ch.f., 2021, Talent Search—Mary Cole, by Broken Vow. B/O-Gilman Hallenbeck; T-John Servis. $100,000 Miss Blue Tye Dye S, Parx, Aug. 21.

MIA TOSCA, ch.f., 2019, Animal Kingdom—Queen Scheherazade, by Smart Strike. B-Blackstone Farm; O-Pewter Stable & Renzo Bontempo; T-Kathleen DeMasi. $100,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial S, Parx, Aug. 21.

NEECIE MARIE, b.f., 2020, Cross Traffic—Lode Lady, by Posse. B-Jon Marshall; O-Milam Racing Stables; T-Robert Reid Jr. $100,000 Mrs. Penny S, Parx, Aug. 21.

NICE ACE, b.g., 2018, Noble Mission (GB)—A Lady With an Ace, by First Samurai. B-Blackstone Farm; O-Robert Bone; T-Tim Girten. $80,000 Avery Whisman Memorial S, Presque Isle Downs, Aug. 21.

ONE MORE SCOOP, b.g., 2019, Uncle Lino—Single Scoop, by Scrimshaw. B-Michael Anspach; O-Shooting Star Stable; T-Kathleen DeMasi. $50,000 Fabulous Strike S, Penn National, Aug. 18.

PERFECT HIDEAWAY, dk.b./br.m., 2018, Run Away and Hide—Perfect Landing, by Frost Giant. B-Thomas McClay & Dennis Sweigart; O-Thomas McClay, Dennis Sweigart & Salvatore Cullari; T-Todd Beattie. $50,000 Fort Indiantown Gap S, Penn National, Aug. 18.

ROSES FOR DEBRA, gr./ro.f., 2019, Liam's Map—Essential Rose, by Bernardini. B-Blackstone Farm; O-John O'Meara & Cheyenne Stable; T-Christophe Clement. $150,000 Smart and Fancy S, Saratoga, Aug. 25.

SIMPLY STATED, b.f., 2020, Warrior's Reward—Sharp and Sassy, by Sharp Humor. B-WMT Stables; O-W.M.T. Stable & Sylmar Farm; T-T. Bernard Houghton. $50,000 Penn Ladies Dash S, Penn National, Aug. 18.

TALENTED MAN, b.g., 2019, Talent Search—Musket Mary, by Musket Man. B-Michael Moore; O-Hardesty Stables; T-Michael Moore. $100,000 Marshall Jenney H, Parx, Aug. 21.

TWISTED RIDE, b.g., 2019, Great Notion—Diva's Gold, by Tenpins. B-Kasey K Racing Stable; O-Kasey K Racing Stable, Michael Day & Final Turn Racing Stable; T-Michael Moore. $100,000 Banjo Picker Sprint S, Parx, Aug. 21.

YOU MUST CHILL, gr./ro.g., 2016, Winchill—Only Me, by Runaway Groom. B-Mark Grier; O-Morris Kernan Jr., Yo Berbs & Jagger Inc.; T-Jamie Ness. $50,000 Lebanon Valley S, Penn National, Aug. 18.

Virginia-bred

CHAMBEAU, dk.b./br.m., 2017, Karakontie (Jpn)—If Not for Lust, by Not For Love. B/O-Sam English II; T-Anthony Aguirre Jr. $150,000 Camptown S, Colonial, Sept. 2.

DETERMINED KINGDOM, b.g., 2019, Animal Kingdom—Filia, by Fastnet Rock. B-Audley Farm Equine; O-D Hatman Thoroughbreds & Kingdom Bloodstock; T-Phil Schoenthal. $150,000 Meadow Stable S, Colonial, Sept. 2.

GIGANTE, b.c., 2020, Not This Time—Summertime Green, by Empire Maker. B-Ann Mudge Backer & Smitten Farm; O-Iapetus Racing & Diamond T Racing; T-Steve Asmussen. $500,000 Secretariat S-G2, Colonial, Aug. 12.

LOW MILEAGE, b.f., 2021, Mineshaft—Chabeso, by Distorted Humor. B-Audley Farm Equine; O-Bird Mobberley; T-John Salzman Jr. $125,000 Jamestown S, Colonial, Sept. 2.

PASSION PLAY, b.g., 2016, Hold Me Back—Stylish Affair, by Not For Love. B-Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III; O-Reiley McDonald; T-Mary Eppler. $150,000 Bert Allen S, Colonial, Sept. 2.

West Virginia-bred

COASTAL MISSION, gr./ro.g., 2019, Great Notion—Smart Crowd, by Crowd Pleaser. B/O-Coleswood Farm; T-Jeff Runco. $250,000 Russell Road S, Charles Town, Aug. 25.

JEFFERSON NATIVE, ch.g., 2019, Officer Rocket (GB)—Absolutelygorgeous, by Bop. B-Bybee Road Farm; O-T. W. Stables; T-Linda Dollinger-Stehr. $75,000 Last Enchantment S, Charles Town, Aug. 25.

LUCKY BLONDE, ch.f., 2020, Madefromlucky—Vain Magician, by Street Magician. B-Tim & Judy Grams; O-Grams Racing Stable; T-Tim Grams. $75,000 Sadie Hawkins S, Charles Town, Aug. 25.

NO CHANGE, gr./ro.g., 2018, Fiber Sonde—Looks Like Trouble, by Indian Charlie. B-John McKee; O/T-Cynthia McKee. $75,000 Frank Gall Memorial S, Charles Town, Aug. 25.

STRYDA, b.f., 2020, Great Notion—Maryland's Love, by Not For Love. B-Jill Daniel; O-FTF Racing; T-Jamey Johnson. $75,000 Autumn S, Charles Town, Aug. 25.

UNRULY JULIE, gr./ro.m., 2016, The Factor—Julie B, by Eastover Court. B-O'Sullivan Farms & Funkhouser Associates; O-O'Sullivan Farms; T-Javier Contreras. $100,000 Nellie Mae Cox S, Colonial, Sept. 2.

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Humdinger

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Laura Dietrich and 20-year-old Humdinger.

Picture a fry-an-egg-on-the-pavement hot Saturday afternoon. The sun blazes. The only thing worse than the sweltering humidity are the summer bugs that buzz and dive-bomb. Yet somehow 20-year-old Humdinger and owner Laura Dietrich are a cool study in gentility as they pose for photos at Dietrich's Middleburg, Va., farm.

It's only fitting that the most-repeated word Dietrich uses to describe the horse is "gentleman." He looks and acts the part, and his rank in the hierarchy of Dietrich's spotless, airy barn is readily apparent. Humdinger's stall door remains open, allowing him freedom to stroll safely around the shedrow as he pleases. While next door neighbor True Blue Fingers seems a tad envious, it's a privilege Humdinger has earned.

The Phipps Stable-bred was foaled in Kentucky on March 27, 2003, boasting plenty of that stable's venerable lineage. By multimillionaire and leading sire Broad Brush, he is out of the A.P. Indy mare Indy Pick. Indy Pick was out of Fantastic Find (Mr. Prospector—Blitey, by Riva Ridge) another Grade 1 stakes-winning Phipps homebred. All that pedigree means plenty of successful relatives – multiple Grade 3 winner Optimizer is a half-brother; Grade 1 winner Finder's Fee (Flightline descends from her) is a half-sister to Humdinger's dam, as is major steeplechase winner Tax Ruling; Blitey's foals include Grade 1 winners Dancing Spree and Furlough.

Five starts on the flat as a 3-year-old for Shug McGaughey in 2006 yielded a maiden-breaker at Belmont Park. Purchased privately late that year by steeplechase trainer Neil Morris for Zohar and Lisa Ben-Dov's Kinross Farm, Humdinger resurfaced at Fox-field on April 28, 2007, in a maiden special going 2⅛ miles over hurdles with Chris Read aboard. They won. It was the beginning of a second career that endured until May 12, 2012.

Humdinger made 29 his 35 starts during those six years, scoring six of his seven wins. He ran at point-to-points and sanctioned meets throughout Virginia with trips to Aiken, Fair Hill, Malvern, Willowdale, High Hope and the Iroquois. In 2011, he ran three times over timber, winning twice. In addition to Read, Humdinger had his picture taken with jockeys Jacob Roberts, Liam McVicar and Matt McCarron.

In 2010, Humdinger came out for new owner Michael Smith. He was trained briefly by Diana McClure before returning to Morris, with whom he finished his racing career with stats of 35-7-7-6 and $117,289 earned.

Somehow, all the gelding's success was achieved with three screws in his right pastern.

"Maybe two years before the horse retired," Dietrich began, "we were at a Christmas party and I said to Mike Smith, 'When that horse retires, he's just my kinda guy.' So I asked him to please let me know when the horse retired, and damned if he didn't call me. Mike and I hunted together, Neil too. So Mike knew the farm and the kind of home the horse would get.

"I had emails from Neil when I first brought Humdinger home," Dietrich said. "He loves the horse. He said, 'He has always worked his heart out. He's as honest as can be. Retiring sound was not bad for a horse with screws in his leg.' "

Dietrich grew up in Chicago – fifth generation – and had years of experience riding and foxhunting before leaving Illinois. She also worked with Beagle and Basset packs. The first presidential campaign for Ronald Reagan brought Dietrich and her husband to Washington, D.C.

"I did presidential advance – family advance – for Barbara Bush and Maureen Reagan. You go ahead of their visit and map out a schedule, usually with the campaign manager advising what their interests and platform are. Mrs. Bush loved literacy, for instance. Or we'd be contacted by someone wanting them to visit. So, you have to piece it together and make her day, all down to the millisecond."

Dietrich had always been involved in political campaigns as a volunteer while still in school. Before she was old enough to vote, she ran the Illinois Nixon Youth Campaign. For the second Reagan campaign, she worked for the State Department, serving as deputy assistant secretary of state in political asylum.

She remained in her government position until the George H.W. Bush administration took over.

"It was like a 24/7 job, so at that point I decided I didn't want to continue."

What she wanted was to leave their Capitol Hill residence and put down roots in Middleburg.

"It took me a long time to get my husband out here. He'd rather work than foxhunt, whereas I was always working everything around hunting."

She has hunted with Piedmont Fox Hounds for 15 years, after 10 with the Middleburg Hunt. And for the past 10 years, Humdinger has been her go-to partner.

Dietrich did the reschooling herself after Smith agreed to retire the horse. While the horse's manners were always impeccable – there was no rearing or bucking – there were some significant issues with brakes. At their first hunt, Humdinger stepped off the trailer, looked around and thought he was back at a race meet.

"I mean it was a little life-threatening the first couple seasons hunting. He had to get used to things like cows, pigs, barking dogs, even a few llamas. I don't think he's ever stopped at a fence since I've had him. We just had a little bit of trouble with brakes, trouble waiting at check points. It's like anything, he just needed exposure. But he's never had an inclination to kick anybody, horse or hound."

"Really, Humdinger has this huge extended family. You go in the hunt field, and people still know him. He's the local horse who stuck around, and it's worked out perfectly."

– Laura Dietrich

Dietrich credits the handling the horse received from his early connections. He was never given any reason to distrust, she says, and therefore grew into a completely honest, straightforward horse.

She's also proud to point out that, while still in training with Morris, Humdinger was the mount of several young riders who have since gone on to successful careers in the racing industry. While still a student at Foxcroft School, Mary Motion spent mornings before classes riding out for Morris at Kinross. She was frequently aboard Humdinger. Motion went on to ride in sanctioned races herself after great success in the junior ranks with Orpington. Now living in Lexington, Ky., she works with bloodstock agent Chad Shumer. In recent years, Dietrich has offered Humdinger to Motion for hunting when she's come home to visit her family in Middleburg.

Corbin Blumberg, director of racing and bloodstock operations for Starlight Racing, also had the mount on Humdinger quite often while working for Morris. Blumberg's father, Ivan, owns a farm near Dietrich's. Dietrich hunted Humdinger until the end of this 2023 season before fully retiring him.

"We go for a little walkabout and stuff. So I do ride him, but I think he's done plenty at 20," she said. "Really, Humdinger has this huge extended family. You go in the hunt field, and people still know him. He's the local horse who stuck around, and it's worked out perfectly." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Saratoga 2023 shocks can spur improvement

In shock. That's probably the best answer to the question of how racing people felt as the 2023 racing season at Saratoga Race Course ended. I'll assume it wasn't all that different from how people felt at Churchill Downs in the spring. And I know it's the same feeling people walked away from the 2023 Preakness Day at Pimlico.

Horses suffered catastrophic injuries on big stages at Saratoga, Churchill and Pimlico this year, leaving a wide swath of people grasping for reasons why. Racing is supposed to be safer than it was. Fatality numbers have trended down for several years, in statistically significant scientific studies. Veterinary protocols are stricter. Horse welfare is a regular concern of everyone in the industry.

Then why did 2023 bring confidence-rattling calamity on the scale of Ruffian, Go for Wand, Eight Belles? Over and over. Nobody knows. Not for sure. And that might be the biggest issue with trying to do something about it. That might also be racing's biggest opportunity. There are so many factors at play – breeding, training, the sales, racing surfaces, medication, diagnostics, veterinary practices, race-riding, race conditions, weather, schedules, regulation – that the sport might actually be able to do something about the problem.

When discussions turn to these topics, cost frequently becomes a talking point but I'm not buying it. Many states granted the Thoroughbred industry lifelines when connecting revenue from slot machines and alternative gaming sources to purse funds, breeder incentives and facility improvements. As a result, purses have never been higher and are up 10 percent (average by race day) over last year through August. In many cases, some of that money funds horse safety and welfare. More of it should.

In New York, Belmont Park is being reconstructed to include a synthetic racetrack to complement its dirt and turf courses. The same scenario could be coming for Saratoga. Florida's Gulfstream Park did it a few years ago. Presque Isle Downs in Pennsylvania, Turfway Park in Kentucky and Woodbine in Canada all use synthetic tracks, as do several training centers. There is no doubting the safety record of synthetic tracks, and they should be a part of American racing. Part of. Nobody should be trying to convert all dirt tracks to

synthetic the way California knee-jerked itself into a bind in the mid 2000s, but dismissing the concept is akin to telling the world you're OK with horses dying on the racetrack.

While we're on the subject of racetrack surfaces, don't stop trying to make dirt and turf courses safer. Slow the races down, somehow. Card longer races, somehow. The two big-stage fatalities at Saratoga – Maple Leaf Mel in the Test-G1 and New York Thunder in the Allen Jerkens-G1 – were 7-furlong races that started with half-miles in :44 and change. Would the horses still be in their barns if that fraction started with a :45 or :46? We'll never know.

Deeper in this magazine you'll see an article about StrideSAFE, software that collects data about horses' strides and gaits. A smartphone-sized device in a saddle towel of a horse training and/or racing can detect minute changes that could signal a pending injury – before it happens. Churchill Downs and other tracks have tested the system, and the potential could be game-changing. It'll take further data collection, a bigger embrace from owners and trainers, and continued refinement of the software, but there's something there.

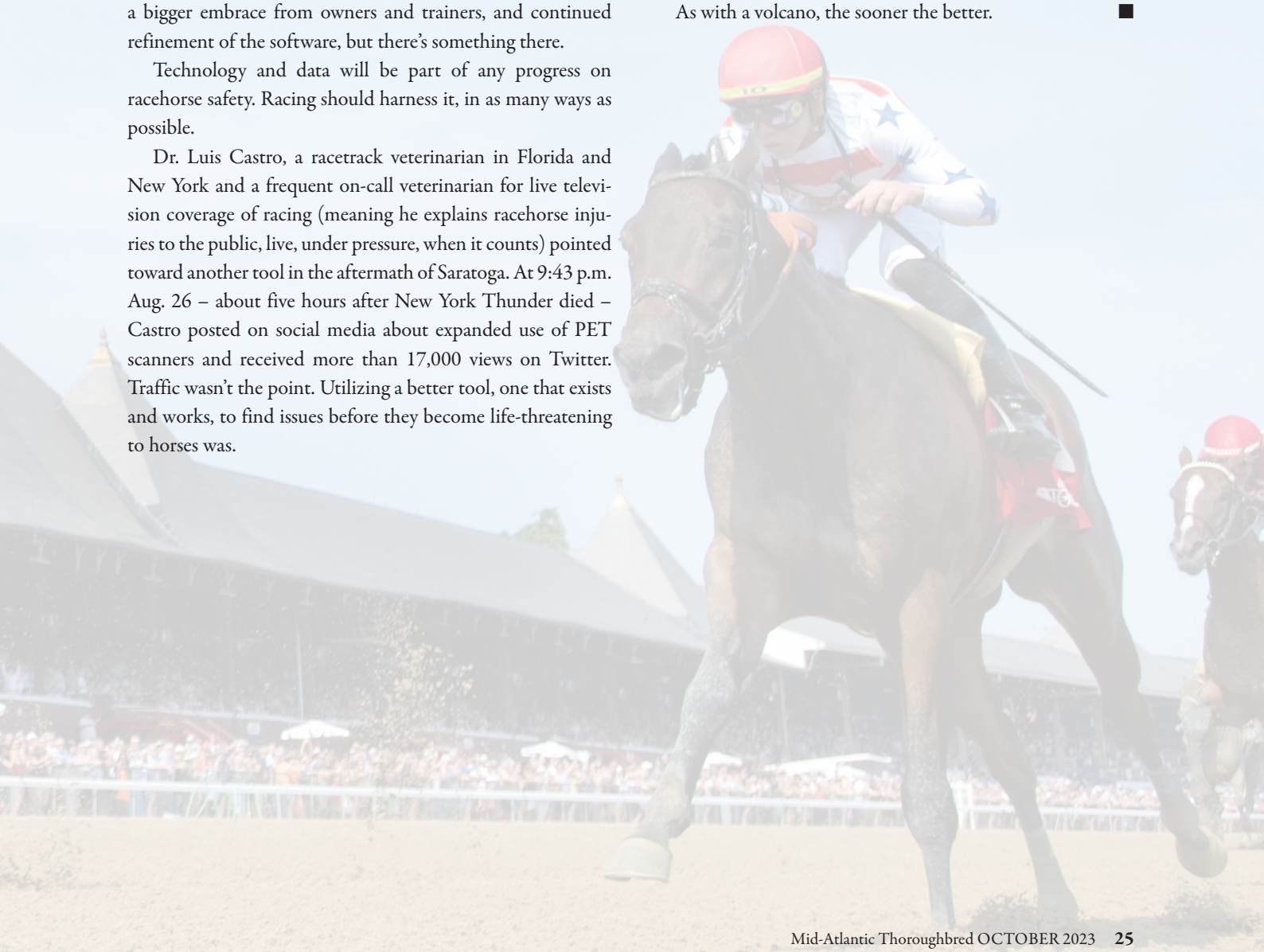
Technology and data will be part of any progress on racehorse safety. Racing should harness it, in as many ways as possible.

Dr. Luis Castro, a racetrack veterinarian in Florida and New York and a frequent on-call veterinarian for live television coverage of racing (meaning he explains racehorse injuries to the public, live, under pressure, when it counts) pointed toward another tool in the aftermath of Saratoga. At 9:43 p.m. Aug. 26 – about five hours after New York Thunder died – Castro posted on social media about expanded use of PET scanners and received more than 17,000 views on Twitter. Traffic wasn't the point. Utilizing a better tool, one that exists and works, to find issues before they become life-threatening to horses was.

A positron emission tomography scan uses a radioactive tracer to discover changes to bones that might not otherwise appear in an X-ray, CT scan or physical examination. The day after New York Thunder's death, I talked to Castro for more than an hour about PET scans and scanners. He wants one in New York. He wants one at as many racetracks and training facilities as possible. He thinks PET scans help diagnose and prevent catastrophic injuries. He tried to explain the technology to me – well, he explained it and I tried to understand it – and I'll write about it next month.

In wildly basic terms, he compared the various diagnostic imaging tools veterinarians (and doctors use) to mapping. A topographical map of a volcano, for example, will show you where everything is – the crater, the peak, the valleys and various undulations on all sides – but can't tell you much about the lava, which is the important stuff. X-rays and other tools can show horses' joints and bones. A PET scan can show what's going on inside joints and bones.

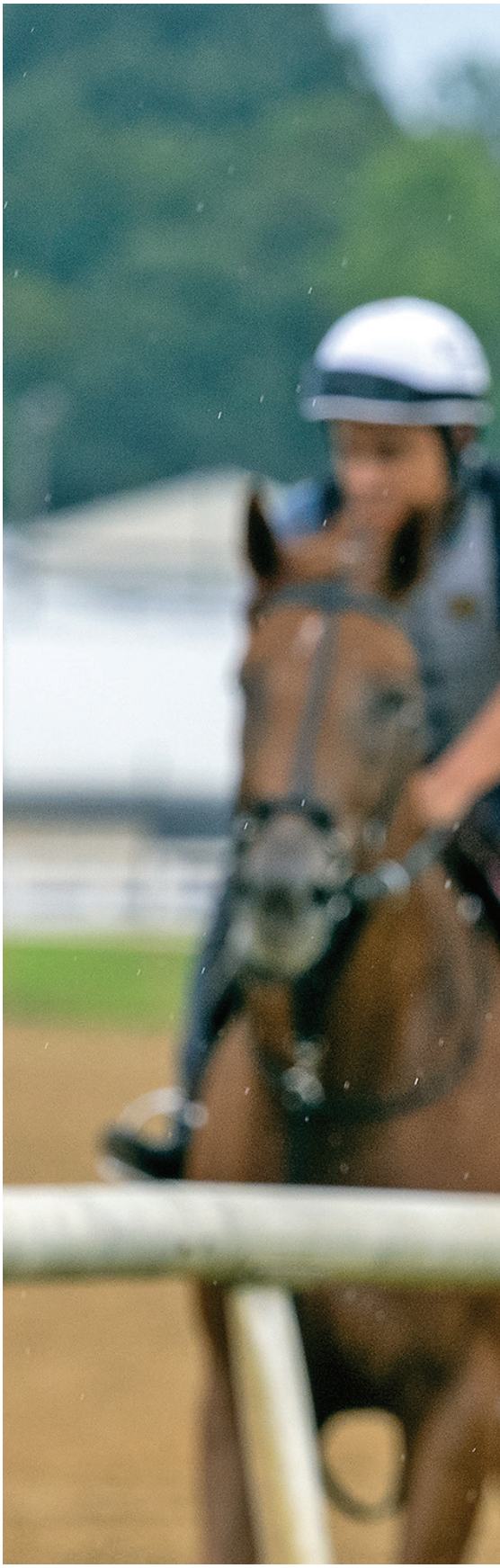
As with a volcano, the sooner the better. ■



The WordSmith

TRAINER CARVES LONG, UNIQUE NICHE IN MARYLAND RACING

By Vinnie Perrone ■ *Photographs by Jerry Dzierwinski*



He prowls the racetrack grounds a familiar mystery. Shadowy in sunlight. Distantly cordial. Gruffly agreeable.

So you ask the Laurel Park horsemen who've known Hammy Smith longest, some 40 years or more, to explain the storied, skilled enigma there in Barn 22.

"We're good friends," says trainer Damon Dilodovico, who works next door in Barn 25, "but we don't talk."

"He softened up over the years," trainer Donald Barr surmises from Barn 10. "And still, if you got two words out of him, it was like a minor miracle."

Horse owner Deborah Greene, who shares racing and breeding stock with Hammy, recounts a rickety ride toward welcome partnership: "When I first met him – I hate to say this – I thought he was grumpy."

Even when you coax from him a spoken thought, trainer Ferris Allen says out of Barn 21, words leave mumbled. "I talk to Hammy Smith virtually every day," Allen offers. "And most days I have no idea what he's sayin'. "

Cautions issued, you find Hamilton Smith in the Laurel Park clubhouse one Saturday, broach the prospect of an interview. He sits a worthy subject: Racetrack fixture more than half a century, hands-on trainer of reigning Maryland-bred 3-year-old filly champion Luna Belle, 2012 Illinois Derby-G3 hero Done Talking and two graded stakes-winning females, purveyor of million-dollar purse earnings 26 years running, one-time South Carolina farmhand whose eight Jim McKay Maryland Million winners mark him high on the horse-training leaderboard and reveal his snug embrace of Maryland's farms and stallions.

Hammy shows no reaction to the interview query. His 28 horses only walk on Mondays, he says without commitment, but the coming Monday morning he goes to get his glasses fixed. His lack of alternative effects a pause.

How about the following Monday? he's asked. Nine a.m.?

His expression tells nothing. "OK," he says eventually.

Ham Smith
Trainer

"I just assumed his wife had posted it."

– Owner Deborah Greene, about a THE CRAB IS IN sign hanging on the door to Smith's office

A conversational tractor-pull expected, you tap others for anecdotes, scour archives, thumb through forgotten newspaper clips in the Laurel Park press box – any tools that might help chisel a stony figure.

You track him, meantime, find other incongruities afoot. In blue jeans, golf shirt, ballcap and sneakers, he moves about a younger man, more spring than shuffle. At 78, he masks even his age without trying.

The morning in play finds Mr. Smith in his office chair, facing the door, reading a condition book. On a desk to his right, a butterscotch barn cat with chocolate swirls slumbers on a closed laptop, unmoved by a stranger's strokes.

"Our friend have a name?"

"Nope."

"What's his story?"

"Showed up maybe four years ago. Been here since."

Funny thing about the cabbage palmetto, South Carolina's rugged state tree: It flowers eventually in midsummer. Over two midsummer sessions and nearly three hours in his backstretch office at Laurel Park, Hammy Smith reveals conversational blossoms, plums even, about the rotten task of picking cotton, his unplanned alliance with horses and brother Franklin (Goree to many), his tricky way of helping Hall of Fame trainer Max Hirsch fall hunted doves, his Vietnam War service that plopped him near the Soviet frontier, his professional start on the frontside of New England racetracks and eventual marriage to then-apprentice jock JoAnn "Jody" Baker, his 2,100-plus racetrack winners, his whipsaw run and unfolding drama with sales-bound diva Luna Belle, his horse-breeding philosophy so governed by the Maryland Million.

Crusty? How's this: On his reason for dodging retirement, for willingly finding his stride at 3 a.m., pre-alarm, most mornings, Hammy says, "I don't know what the hell I'd do." Fish or golf some, maybe. Then, "I'm not a beach guy. I don't look too good in a Speedo, anyway."

Reluctant? Many years back, one of Hammy's brothers gave Woody Stephens a Beagle. Short of barn help one morning, Woody cajoled the dog to clench an end of rope and become . . . a hotwalker. Says Hammy, "You shoulda seen some o' the things that went on in those days."

Taciturn? Hammy's Southern-spiced references to Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Greene – Deborah's late father, Fred – bespeak a certain deference accorded elders. "It was taught to us when we were kids," he says. "Be respectful. You don't call elderly people by their first names. When there are ladies in the room, no cursin' around them. You don't see that anymore, either. Hell, the ladies cuss worse than we do."

Did his colleagues misrepresent Hammy's isms? Not exactly. The open-throttle oratory has its misfires: Certain soliloquies require several tape-recorded replays to discern indistinct speech, and Hammy offsets full disclosures with guarded diffidence. When Suffolk Downs forbade married couples to work the track, Hammy, in the racing office, and his race-riding wife somehow finessed a divorce, although they celebrated a 50-year anniversary in 2023. "Let's just say we got the necessary paperwork," Hammy says, for a sly fox shows no feathered whiskers.

Or this: Years ago, a hand-painted ornament appeared on his office door, a brown crustacean with googly eyes gripping a shingle that read THE CRAB IS IN. Here again, Hammy turns vague at whoever made or bought or hung it, who thought it apt, and how, exactly, it disappeared.

"I just assumed his wife had posted it," Deborah Greene says.

Hammy wouldn't have met Jody or developed a fondness for horses or found the racetrack had his daddy not acceded and bought son John Edward an old cold-blooded pony to tramp Lone Star's fields and unpaved roadways. To that point, nudging 1950, the 1,800-acre family farm grew soybeans, mostly, corn, oats, wheat and barley, cotton, watermelons, beef cattle, dairy cows, turkeys, chickens and guinea fowls – the watchdogs whose distinctive gabbles warned of predators.

A couple, the Pricketts, had a Thoroughbred farm maybe five miles off; John Edward, then a jockey-sized teen, came

A trainer since 1977, Smith checks on his charges at his Laurel Park barn in August.

to gallop the new breed there, brought home the thrills and shared them with daddy. Before long, Dudley Smith Sr. added two broodmares to Lone Star's livestock roster.

Until then, his youngest boys, Franklin and Hamilton, plugged away at farmyard chores, milking cows by hand, feeding the pigs, picking cotton. "My dad made us work," Hammy says, the cotton-picking wage set at two cents a pound. He thinks he once bagged 175 pounds (worth $3.50) in a day; two women his dad employed, operating with assembly-line efficiency, would bag 300.

At 10, long before he found a saddle, Hammy tilled and harrowed fields by tractor. From the five-acre watermelon patch, he and Frank (born Franklin Gregory, hence Goree) would set up a stand out front and sell hefty wedges to passing fisherman bound for Lake Marion or Lake Moultrie in Santee.

Where farm chores grew tiresome, horses enlivened. Goree and Hammy tended the two broodmares, later their foals, with illuminating pep. "I fell in love with the little babies," Hammy says. Certain days he'd lie a spell in the paddock, a curiosity one young filly growingly accepted. Before long he'd get on her bareback and roam the field.

The order of Smiths proved fateful. First came Dudley Jr. – Dee – then two sisters, John Edward, another sister, a 10-year gap to Franklin, 18 months more to Hammy. Of the break in production, Hammy says, "I don't know what daddy was doin'."

"My commanding officer told us most of us would go to Vietnam and the smart thing to do would be to volunteer, and you may get an assignment to one of the bigger cities like Saigon and so forth."

– Navy veteran Hammy Smith, who wound up serving in the Aleutian Islands off the Alaskan Peninsula

John Edward jockeyed in Canada and New England, went off to the Air Force, returned too big to ride. So he got a trainer's license and headed north once more, exciting new needs back home.

The Smiths cut a three-furlong track into a Lone Star pasture useful, not ideal, for Goree and Hammy to break the young, uncultivated Thoroughbreds bound for John Edward's New England barn. No helmets. No safety vests. No soft landings. When the time came, Hammy and Goree would van the horses north and spend a little time in their brother's stable.

South Carolina then a winter destination for northern horsemen and their stock, Woody Stephens and Max Hirsch would stable at the state fairgrounds in Columbia.

As year-end farm chores lessened, teenage Hammy would make the hour's drive there to watch the masters' morning work. Observation brought discovery: Both trainers would work a set of 2-year-olds and leave the riders to walk them.

Another bygone serving: "One day, Mr. Hirsch worked four or five 2-year-olds, and evidently he wasn't satisfied with the way they worked," Hammy says. "So he walked the horses and cooled 'em out, and then made the boys get back on 'em and go work 'em again."

Late in 1962, the year Stephens trained Never Bend to a 2-year-old championship, he and Hirsch accepted an invitation to hunt doves on the Smith farm. Dudley Smith Sr. would leave his hogs to root through a cornfield, stripping silks and gnawing cobs, which invited doves to grab the discards.

Sixteen years earlier, Hirsch had pulled off the improbable, getting the half-lame Assault to win the Triple Crown. (Hirsch also claimed petulant 2-year-old Stymie for $1,500 in 1943 and retired him the world's all-time purse leader, $918,485.) At Lone Star Farm into his 80s, Hirsch tracked airborne doves through fuzzy vision and took aim at another longshot.

Hammy, a crack shot then as a high school senior, set up behind the group, awaited Hirsch's volley and fired straightaway. As a dove fell, Hammy sprang: "You got him, Mr. Hirsch!"

High-flying birds aside, Hirsch maintained an eye for horses; he and Stephens liked to survey the Smith Thoroughbreds. Goree and Hammy had seen the herd one day lolling in the mud, balked at their appearance. "We didn't want 'em thinkin', 'These boys in the country' . . ." Hammy says. "We gotta clean 'em up." Hirsch let out a laugh. "No, that's good for 'em."

Hammy closes. "They were well known, those guys, and down to earth. There was nothin' fancy about 'em at all. I liked to hear what the hell they were doin' to get a horse to the races."

By word and by deed, Hammy remembered the Hall of Fame methods through a year at University of South Carolina and 1964 Air Force induction into the Vietnam War. Training in San Antonio, then up to Wichita Falls, just shy of Oklahoma, Hammy honed a specialization in . . . communications. He landed at a transmission hub in Orlando, Fla., spent a few years there before the Navy took it over as a training ground for Seals.

"My commanding officer told us most of us would go to Vietnam," Hammy says, "and the smart thing to do would be to volunteer, and you may get an assignment to one of the bigger cities like Saigon and so forth." He pursued posts in Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, and ended up in the Aleutian Islands off the Alaskan Peninsula, near the Soviet Union's southeast border. "About as ass-backwards as you could get."

The Cold War afoot, military strategy adapted. Hammy and his outfit gauged and recorded how close Soviet fighters would get to U.S. air space before Air Force jets interceded.

Smith goes over strategy with Jeiron Barbosa in the paddock at Timonium before Response Time's win in the Timonium Distaff.

Four years in the military, Hammy rejoined civilian life in 1968 and started tracking the movements of domestic racehorses. At Suffolk Downs in East Boston, Mass., he served as assistant horse identifier, entry clerk, patrol judge. He met a Rhode Island girl, Jody, married her for good (despite paperwork to the contrary), eventually became assistant racing secretary at Rockingham Park in Salem, N.H., and, in 1972, horse identifier at newly opened Penn National.

Goree, meantime, helped John Edward manage his modest stable. When the burdens of raising a family and regularly pulling a house trailer between Carolina and New England proved wearisome, John Edward decided not to travel north with his horses. With that, Goree took over the stable.

At meet's end, Goree and Hammy would ship the half-dozen head to South Carolina. Along the way, they'd stop in Maryland, stable and race for six weeks, then finish the journey. A restful winter back home proved a mirage with more yearlings to break. Many more yearlings. As word traveled of the Smith brothers' horse-teaching know-how, the need for added stable space intensified. Goree rented a barn at the nearby Elloree Training Center, then bought and expanded the place. He thus ceded public-training duties to Hammy.

The taste of Maryland sated Ham Smith. With Bowie Race Course operating in winter, and year-round racing in play, he opened shop there in 1977. Three years later, John's Roll got a ride to the Timonium Futurity and returned Hammy's first stakes winner.

At Bowie, Hammy shared a stable with Steward Mitchell, the affably quirky trainer who would feed doughnuts, bananas, crumb cakes, oranges – oranges! – to popular late-running claimer Doctor Ichabod (Sawbones—Whooping Crane, by Duck Dance). On walks about the shedrow, The Doctor would pronounce himself treat-ready by poking open Mitchell's office door and holding a plaintive pose. With uncommon diet came sustenance: The Doctor made 115 starts for homebuilding owner Fred Greene Jr., won 22, and drew hearty cheers in his advertised racing finale, a weekday claimer at Laurel Park. Greene and wife Odessa drove from Florida just for the occasion.

"My wife and I are crazy about him," Fred said at the time. "We decided that if we didn't drive up and watch this race, we would always regret it."

The Greenes reveled in Doctor Ichabod's sound, seventh-place exit.

Mitchell trained many others for Greene, graded-stakes winner Bea Quality among them. The owner would find his way to the barn most mornings, and Hammy knew him enough for a perfunctory hello. OK, sometimes a nod.

After Bowie ceased racing in 1985, operating only as a boarding-and-training center, the Maryland Jockey Club built a covered bridge above Race Track Road that linked stable area to track.

Greene owned a flighty filly that wouldn't cross and therefore couldn't train. At Mitchell's hint, Greene sent the filly to Hammy, who'd left Bowie for the Laurel Park backstretch. A partnership was born.

Hundreds of miles apart, Hammy and Goree also grew together. Goree added broodmares and stallions to the Elloree rolls, sent resultant homebreds to his brother to race or sell privately to other clients. The South Carolina connection further strengthened when O.H. Wienges Jr., owner of 2,500-acre Singleton Plantation not far from Lone Star, started sending racing stock to Hammy.

Othneil Henry Wienges Jr. had served 10 years in the South Carolina House of Representatives and chaired the University of South Carolina's board of trustees; in 1989, he further diversified by acquiring a stud prospect. Kokand had had modest racing success, winning three of nine starts for Woody Stephens, but Wienges fancied more his pedigree: Prodigious sire Mr. Prospector had led North American studs in 1987 and '88; Kokand's dam, the Nijinsky II mare Waving, had won two stakes and $174,681 in a 7-for-13 career.

> "I really enjoy that day. It's a good event – very good for Maryland racing, Maryland breeders and everything else. Bein' a farm boy, I'm all for the farms."
>
> *– Hammy Smith, about the Maryland Million*

It didn't take long. Two Kokand foals of 1993, Big Rut and Double Stake, entered Hammy's barn as 2-year-olds, bringing South Carolina-breds and trainer fresh esteem. Big Rut, a gelding out of the Gun Bow mare Miss Baltimore, proved flashy and durable: He won five stakes his 3-year-old season, got claimed away for $50,000, raced to age 10 and made $570,488. Double Stake, a female from the Double Hitch mare Double Theory, took three stakes at 3 and another at 4 in a $343,480 career.

As Kokand thrived in a new endeavor, so did James "Bobo" Brigmon. Brigmon's school bus passing Elloree Training Center one June morning, horses galloping about the track, he and a teenage pal agreed to seek summer employment there. Geographically, Elloree was a place next door; functionally, a world away. No one in Brigmon's immediate family had experience with horses.

Goree put him to work filling water buckets and feed tubs, removing trash, raking the shedrow, cleaning stalls, walking horses back from a paddock. Eventually Brigmon started galloping them, doing legwork, whatever the boss needed. Talent evident, Goree recommended him to Hammy.

"When I first came up, I didn't bother him much," Brigmon says of Hammy. "I was kinda timid from him 'cause of the way he walked around. I'm like, 'Man, he's not like Mr. Goree.' Mr. Goree, he'll talk with you, joke with you, he'll tell you stories. Hammy'll tell you a story every blue moon."

JIM MCCUE (2)

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

EQUI-PHOTO, INCL

A few of Smith's star trainees (clockwise from top left): Luna Belle winning the 2022 Weber City Miss; Talk Show Man (blinkers) getting his second Maryland Million Turf victory in 2018 in his come-from-behind style; Humoristic scoring her second Grade 3 Violet Stakes at the Meadowlands in 2007; graded winner Blind Date returning after her 2010 Maryland Million Distaff victory.

Different and alike. "Listenin' to him and Mr. Goree, you're gonna hear the same things from both of 'em," Brigmon says. "They're old-school. They know everything about the horses from head to toe. When they teach you, you're gonna know."

By the time Brigmon found Hammy's stable, 2000, so had Fred Greene Jr.'s runners following Steward Mitchell's death the previous year. Greene owned some horses in partnership with daughter Deborah, Maryland Million winner Debbie Sue (Citidancer—Privateers Bay, by Allen's Prospect) among them. All those glowing things her dad had said of Hammy, Deborah wondered – is this the same guy?

Fred's eyesight failing, Deborah often drove him to Hammy's barn. "I could go out there five times in a row, and the man never spoke to me," she says. "It wasn't rudeness . . . he was just so engaged in everything else, and focused. And I kept quiet too 'cause Dad didn't like me asking questions a lot."

Then, at Laurel Park, an epiphany. Outside the paddock, Deborah spotted a young girl, 8 maybe, with a grim expression and decided plea. "Where is granddaddy?" Hammy Smith emerged animated, declaring, "He's right here!"

"His arms went out, and he picked her up, and he's grinnin' from ear to ear," Deborah says. "That little girl just melted in his arms, and he carried her through. And I realized, he is just a softie. He's an old softie."

Coming years brought Hammy more reasons to smile. The bay mare Humoristic had a laugher in the 2005 Violet Stakes-G3 on Meadowlands turf at 28-1; two years later, a narrow score at 14-1. Grade 3 winner Blind Date took the 2010 Maryland Million Distaff Handicap for legendary adman Bill Backer, who'd penned the 1970s jingle *I'd like to buy the world a Coke* and other evergreens. Skeedattle Associates homebred Done Talking rallied to wrest the Illinois Derby at 12-1 months after colic nearly claimed him. The rise-and-surprise gave Done Talking (Broken Vow—Dixie Talking, by Dixieland Band) a berth in the Kentucky Derby.

Hammy's first and only Kentucky Derby visit proved inhospitable. Churchill Downs reserved no nearby hotel rooms for the stable principals, he says, exiling them 25 miles out of town. Done Talking too found himself inconvenienced by all the crowd noise before the race and body-slamming during it. He finished 14th under Sheldon Russell.

The following spring, veterinarian Michael Harrison sent Hammy a 2-year-old homebred by Great Notion out of the Haymaker mare Mark Me Special. "One of my favorite horses," Hammy says of Talk Show Man. "Very well-liked by the people in the barn. Easy to work with. Smart."

Rewarding too. Talk Show Man used his beguiling, come-from-behind style to snatch the Maryland Million Turf at 4 and again at 8, earning $456,556 in a 40-race career.

Fred Greene's passive interests as a horse breeder waning into his mid-80s, he thought to give away stakes-placed mare Heavenly Moon, newly retired, before daughter Deborah urged against it. Reassessment brought an offer: He'd give Hammy a 50-percent interest and title as managing partner to oversee Heavenly Moon and any other broodmares.

Hammy accepted. Regarding breeding matchups or auction prospects, he targeted the offspring of state stallions that would qualify for the Maryland Million.

"I really enjoy that day," Hammy says. "It's a good event – very good for Maryland racing, Maryland breeders and everything else. Bein' a farm boy, I'm all for the farms."

In 2018, Hammy sent Heavenly Moon to Northview Stallion Station in Chesapeake City for a date with Great Notion. The resultant bay filly, Luna Belle, arrived at Barn 22 with two distinct wisps on her muzzle, like someone had gotten careless with a white marker. One other peculiarity: "Clean the stall in the morning, put some fresh straw in, she'll lie down," Hammy says. "And she'll stay there till race time. After the race, she'll come back, stand there for a little while, nibble on the hay, then all of a sudden she'll lie down again. She loves the rest."

Luna Belle was a yearling in January 2020 when Sweet Home Dixie fled five other females and delivered Hammy's 2,000th victory. As scripts go, it seemed transcendent: Goree bred and owned the mare, the product of an Elloree stallion – Illinois Derby winner Done Talking.

Luna Belle kept the pages turning. In five Laurel Park starts over five straight months, she won the Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship, the Xtra Heat Stakes, the Wide Country, Beyond the Wire, Weber City Miss. The last came in April 2022, a month before the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2, a chance to test her mettle against 3-year-olds of national distinction.

On paper, the timing seemed ideal. But the paper had abundant ink: Since her racing debut in July 2021, she'd had 11 starts in 11 months.

"I wasn't gonna run her 'cause she'd been running straight so long to the Black-Eyed Susan," Hammy says. "Hadn't had a break at all. But she kept winnin', and it looked like it wasn't takin' anything out of her. And she had quite a following at the time . . . so I said, 'Heck, let's take a shot.' "

Deborah Greene was more succinct. "How could you not give her that opportunity?"

A slow start and wide trip doomed her in the Black-Eyed Susan. At 7-1, she finished 11th of 13 and later was diagnosed with bone bruises. A vet advised three months off. Hammy turned her out for four months, brought her back, galloped her into shape, breezed her twice before she developed a check ligament injury deep in the flexor tendon behind the cannon bone.

As Luna Belle rediscovered farm life, voters declared her champion Maryland-bred 3-year-old filly of 2022: Five starts, four victories, $255,000 in purses.

"I never imagined having a horse like Luna Belle. Can't imagine havin' another one," Deborah says. "So much can go wrong in horse racing. And obviously there's nothing like it when it goes right."

As Hammy prepared to bring her back, horses started getting hurt mornings and afternoons across the Laurel dirt, a perilous problem that rose and ebbed for months. Hammy says he'd lost three horses to the track and couldn't risk harming Luna Belle. Deborah's agreement bred a creative solution: This past spring, they sent her to Chesapeake City to be covered by Engage, Northview Stallion Station's second-year stud.

She didn't catch, Hammy says, "which may work in our favor."

Spurred by vocal horsemen, Laurel Park ownership brought back track superintendent John Passero, who identified and remedied racing-surface defects. The racetrack made safe, Luna Belle not in foal and moving soundly, the door to a racing comeback opened anew.

She rejoined Hammy's stable and started galloping toward a possible Maryland Million berth in early June, exercise rider Bobo Brigmon offering this assessment: "She's doing awesome. She's handlin' everything good. She's a cool horse, you know? She'll pull on ya a little bit."

Luna Belle tends to go out in predawn quiet, the Laurel racetrack lightly traveled. By August, as she'd started breezing half-miles, Brigmon recognized her urge to surge. "When she sees another horse out there," he says, "she gets racy."

Says Hammy: "She's the type of filly, she gets fit pretty quick."

Says Deborah: "I look forward to seeing what she can do. But she'll never disappoint me."

Luna Belle's revival brought horse-training neighbor Ferris Allen no surprise given her trainer's acumen. "When you look at Hammy," he says, "there's no more straightforward, hard-trying, diligent guy ever in the business."

September calling, Hammy hadn't settled on a comeback race to set up a possible Million bid. Although Luna Belle skipped through dirt in all six victories – Hammy replayed two potent stretch runs on his cellphone – the trainer didn't rule out a possible grass race. Yes, Luna Belle started her career with two winless turf starts, but her dam, Heavenly Moon, relished it.

Racing plans aside, Luna Belle has a date scheduled in Kentucky. In light of the times, Hammy and Deborah agreed to book her in the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale, a racehorse or broodmare option for any potential buyer. In his 46 years training, Hammy says, she's the first horse he's catalogued.

Deborah says Hammy's matchmaking prowess shows through Moon Virginia (by Jump Start) and The Poser (Bandbox), stakes-placed runners that together eclipsed $650,000 in purses. But, as a retired accountant, she deems time and expense mighty obstacles.

"I'm not ready for more horses yet," she says. "I've got my limit just about now."

Her holdings, with Hammy, include Luna Belle's full-brother and full-sister, Run Bucky Run, a 3-year-old gelding whose tendon problems brought him farm time this summer, and a weanling filly; plus Jack o' Bite, a yearling Golden Lad colt Deborah called "one big, gorgeous-lookin' horse," and Little Engine, a 2-year-old Bourbon Courage half-sister who endured a complicated birth that marks her racing future uncertain.

But one thing Deborah says she knows: "None of this would have been possible without Ham Smith."

How times and impressions change. "I find him very easy to talk to now," she says. "When things go a certain way with work and stuff, you know not to bother him. But he's funny. I love to hear his stories, and his stories about the old racing, and his time at the farm. And so my perception of him's totally changed.

"I think, with Ham, he can be the crab. But I approach it with a sense of humor, and I usually end up making him laugh . . . It took me a while to discover it. Years, actually. He's a good friend. He was a great friend to my dad."

"Smart man," Hammy says of Fred. "Hell of a guy. You won't find a better person than that guy."

During 2020, his final months with Alzheimer's Disease, Fred had trouble grasping why he couldn't properly receive a guest to his Annapolis condo. "Covid-19," Deborah told him. "It isn't safe."

More than once, the visitor arrived on time in blue jeans, plaid shirt, ballcap and sneakers. Farm life and horses, Hammy says, teach you to grow and reap in imperfect conditions. He set up a folding chair on the condo patio and, through a screen door, talked to Fred a good long time. ■

— Health Notes —

BY JEN ROYTZ

Potential Game-Changer

STRIDESAFE'S BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY CAN IDENTIFY MINUTE GAIT ABNORMALITIES

With the spikes in equine fatalities at Santa Anita in 2019, Churchill Downs this spring and Saratoga this summer, catastrophic injuries to racehorses have been an increasingly prominent issue, within the Thoroughbred industry and beyond. While horsemen and regulatory officials at those tracks and others have worked to refine safety protocols, strengthen medication rules and mitigate identifiable risk factors, a new technology designed to identify gait abnormalities well before they could be seen or perceived is poised to make a difference.

Recently, researchers have been developing groundbreaking technology that, through an iPhone-sized device carried in a horse's saddle towel, can detect minute deviations in a horse's stride at high speed. This technology can then be used by racing officials to identify horses at a higher risk of injury and by trainers and veterinarians to aid in diagnosis and treatment of injuries in its earliest and most treatable stages, saving not only time and money, but also lives.

Small Issues Can Lead to Big Problems

In 2018, Laura Kennedy, DVM, Dipl.ACVP, assistant professor and veterinary pathologist at the University of Kentucky Diagnostic Laboratory, shared with the attendees of that year's UK Equine Showcase that more than 85 percent of catastrophic musculoskeletal injuries result from preexisting conditions, a number that continues to be well-documented in peer-reviewed research.

In other words, breakdowns rarely came from a horse simply "taking a bad step," but rather were the result of a slow, often imperceptible progression of an injury over weeks or months, eventually resulting in the failure of a bone or ligament.

The challenge was to identify gait abnormalities, and ultimately injuries, in their earliest stages of pathology.

Spearheaded by Dr. David Lambert, StrideSAFE is a collaboration between Equine Analysis Systems (which uses proprietary algorithms based on biomechanical data to predict racing performance in Thoroughbreds) in Kentucky and StrideMaster (which combines GPS, infrared and motion sensor technology to collect and decipher sectional timing and positional data) in Australia.

"StrideSAFE was developed in an attempt to predict horses that are at a higher probability of catastrophic injury," said Greg Pachman, StrideSAFE's general manager. "Horses can suffer catastrophic injuries before showing any signs of lameness visible to the human eye or even any heat or inflammation, but often there are nuanced changes in a horse's gait in the days and weeks leading up to a significant injury that StrideSAFE can appreciate."

Pachman, an Air Force veteran whose involvement in racing started as a hotwalker, groom and exercise rider and evolved to being an owner and trainer after retirement from the military, has built a parallel career in technology startup companies specializing in timing and data collection for auto racing and Olympic events.

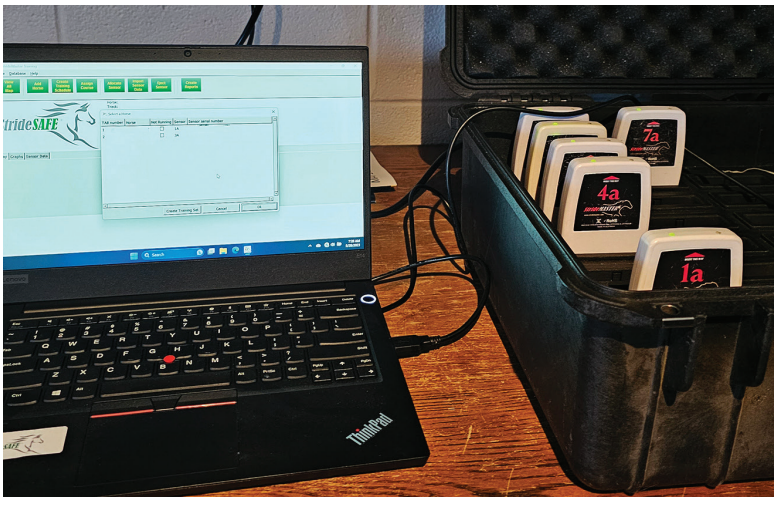
"I had a chance meeting with David in Ocala and we stayed in communication, which eventually led to me consulting for Equine Analysis. About a year ago I began working more

DAVIS INNOVATION PHOTO (2)

closely with David on StrideSAFE and he asked if I would be willing to take on a management role," said Pachman. "In addition to being a pilot, I spent almost all of my Air Force career working in safety and crash investigation and my post-retirement career in software and technology, so this position is a good fit for me. Racehorse safety is a worthwhile pursuit at this point in my life."

When placed in a horse's saddle towel during a breeze or race, a StrideSAFE sensor measures forces in three directions – dorsal-ventral (up-down), longitudinal (forward-backward) and medial-lateral (side-to-side) – collecting data 800 times per second on each axis, which may not be apparent at lower impact and exertion gaits, such as the walk and trot.

"The sensor collects data from a force and acceleration standpoint," said Pachman. "We have developed an algorithm based on a group of horses and we have more than 40,000 horses in that database. The more horses we get into the system, the more we refine the algorithms. When algorithm-



A StrideSAFE saddle towel and sensor sit on a Dale Romans horse. Data is fed into an iPhone-sized device carried in the saddle towel, then pulled from the device into the StrideSAFE database for analysis.

"The way to fully utilize the technology is to have a sensor on that same horse for 10 races and all of his or her breezes. Now we have a fingerprint for that horse and can track incremental changes in the data . . ."

– Greg Pachman, general manager StrideSAFE

DAVIS INNOVATION PHOTO (2)

based companies like Google or Amazon began decades ago, they were eons behind where they are now, and it is the same here. The more data points you have, the more you can refine the results gleaned from that data."

When StrideSAFE is used on a horse the first time, the technology compares the data collected about that horse's locomotion with other horses in the database. Once a horse is consistently carrying a StrideSAFE sensor in its workouts and races, the data can also be compared to data collected previously on that specific horse, further homing in on any changes in that specific horse's locomotion, no matter now nuanced.

"If you put the sensor on a single horse for the first time, I know nothing about that specific horse except his stride profile for that one race or speed work, but we can compare it to horses in our database that are the same age and sex, on the same track surface and that went the same distance," said Pachman. "The way to fully utilize the technology is to have a sensor on that same horse for 10 races and all of his or her breezes. Now we have a fingerprint for that horse and can track incremental changes in the data about how it's hitting the ground during each speed event and share that with the trainer, giving him or her and the horse's veterinarian a guide to follow."

StrideSAFE technology does not have the ability to convey data collected in real time to riders during a race or breeze. Rather, Pachman explained that data collected is analyzed and, thanks to proprietary software, presented confidentially in a report to the trainer and equine safety professionals at the track or training facility. StrideSAFE's veterinarians are also available for consultation.

The technology does not tend to have the same level of accuracy with soft tissue injuries, such as bowed tendons or ligament tears, that it does with bone-related injuries. During a presentation at Churchill Downs in June, Lambert explained that based on human data, soft-tissue injuries do not have the same pattern of forewarning that bone fractures do, so he is skeptical that StrideSAFE would sense anything abnormal leading up to most such injuries. Sudden death events, often assumed to be cardiac related, also would not be perceived proactively by StrideSAFE sensors, as they are unrelated to how the horse is moving.

Science in Action

Over several years trials and studies have taken place at Saratoga, Aqueduct, Rillito Park, Churchill Downs and others to test and collect findings from StrideSAFE. During Churchill's 2023 spring meet, StrideSAFE sensors collected data on every horse in every race for a study at Washington State University.

Led by Drs. Warwick Bayly and Denise McSweeney and funded by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's Kentucky Equine Drug Research Council, the study allowed for StrideSAFE sensors to be carried by all horses racing during the meet, including the 12 racing fatalities, eight of which were musculoskeletal injuries (the other fatalities included two sudden deaths, one paddock injury and one hind limb fracture that occurred during morning training).

Horses were classified using a traffic light-type system. Horses who received a green rating on a StrideSAFE report were deemed to have a safe and normal stride. An amber clas-

"The combination of StrideSAFE and advanced diagnostics, like a PET scan, are the future of how we can drastically reduce the number of catastrophic injuries in racing."

– Dr. William Farmer, equine medical director for Churchill Downs Inc.

sification indicated gait asymmetries (i.e. risk factors) were detected. A red rating meant a horse was at a heightened risk of a significant injury. As part of the study, trainers of horses with red ratings had the option to get free diagnostic testing, such as PET (positron emission tomography) scans or bone scans, in an effort to diagnose the issue.

On May 24, Lambert was interviewed by Bob Valvano on ESPN's *The V Show* about StrideSAFE. Lambert discussed a scenario he anticipates will become more prevalent as StrideSAFE expands.

"It was a momentous event," Lambert told Valvano. "We had our sensors on the horse and the sensors told us that something was wrong. The trainer said, 'Well, he looks all right to me, and we went to see his veterinarian and he said on routine examination, he was OK . . . but our sensor said that something's wrong. Something is happening and he's getting away from his left front leg, and he's feeling it when he's going really fast."

The horse, trained by Dale Romans, went to Churchill Downs Equine Medical Center for a PET scan, which revealed an impending fracture in his front leg. Romans has been candid that had StrideSAFE not flagged his horse, the horse may well have experienced a condylar fracture, jeopardizing not only the horse's career, but his life and those racing alongside him. Instead, the horse is receiving time off with the intention of a return to racing.

The cost for a horse to carry a StrideSAFE sensor and have its stride analyzed is $35 per use.

Dr. William Farmer, equine medical director for Churchill Downs Incorporated, was involved in all aspects of the research and data collected at Churchill Downs and has seen firsthand how the technology can be utilized by not only himself and other safety and regulatory veterinarians, but by a horse's trainer and attending veterinarian.

"Personally, I think [StrideSAFE]'s technology is absolutely groundbreaking," said Farmer. "Prior to this, we only had the time of the breeze or race and what could be observed by the human eye or felt by the rider to go on. The data these sensors capture and the reports StrideSAFE produces give trainers and their veterinarians much more to go on than what anyone can see with their naked eye or that a rider can feel. Are we talking about the left front or right hind limb? Are we seeing patterns from one work to the next on a specific horse? This information helps to give a horse's trainer and veterinarian an indication of where to look."

Farmer says he would like to see a time where every horse that has a speed work or races at Churchill Downs, or any track across the country, carries a StrideSAFE sensor. Their trainers then get a report on each of their horses after each race or work.

"It could be so impactful for our industry," said Farmer. "It gives trainers and their veterinarians information that they can use for early detection and intervention, allowing them to deal with issues when they are minor and require, say, 30 days off rather than six months or even necessitate the end of a horse's racing career. The combination of StrideSAFE and advanced diagnostics, like a PET scan, are the future of how we can drastically reduce the number of catastrophic injuries in racing." ■

A Strong Cast

FRIEDENBERG CRAFTS ACCLAIMED CAREER IN ART FROM VETERINARY PURSUITS

By Sandra McKee

Sculpting is all about composition, anatomy and body language to Kathleen Friedenberg, a longtime equestrian sculptor based in Haverford, Pa.

"Getting the animals' behavior to match what they're doing," she says, mentioning one of her works, *The Farrier*, that shows a blacksmith shoeing a Thoroughbred with a dog nosing his way near the horse's hooves, looking for something.

"People will say, 'Oh, what a beautiful piece,' but they don't know the connection between the activity and the dog," she says. "When a farrier is shoeing a horse, there is often a dog around. Most people don't know, but any nearby dog relishes chewing the cut-off bits of hooves."

MAGGIE KIMMITT

And so, she hones in on the scene – the horse, the dog, the farrier.

"It is very, very important to make sure the body language in the scene is right," she says. "The angles of the ears, the position of the head, the tail, the eyes, everything has to harmonize and express what they're doing and how they're feeling."

That detailed work sets Friedenberg apart from many other equine sculptors. And it is those details and the intricate way she has gone about her work that makes what she creates special.

"Her art is incredibly wonderful," says Terry Lindsey, owner of Tilting at Windmills, one of New England's largest fine art galleries, in Vermont. "I first carried her work and sold it successfully over 25 years in a gallery I had in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Then, when I came here to Manchester, I brought her along and she continued to sell very well.

"[In August], a big sculpture of hers, *Feisty Filly*, is being installed outside our gallery here. It's a [three-quarters] life-size young Thoroughbred. It's exciting."

The work is cast in fiberglass, which Lindsey is happy to say made moving it to Vermont possible.

Always on the move

Friedenberg has a great deal of experience with moving – from England to the United States, from veterinary medicine

Kathleen Friedenberg's sculpture *The Farrier* showcases a typical barn scene.

to art, to sculpture. And all of it has come together to create a mosaic of talent within her, which has enabled her to craft detailed works of art.

It was an unlikely beginning, being born in 1942 and growing up in the North London suburbs of Edgware, Harrow and "a couple of other, more rural places." Her father was a professional bassoonist, and her mother was a secretary, though, Friedenberg adds, if there had been the necessary means, her mother would have been a professional artist, too.

"She used to paint and draw," her daughter recalls. "She drew very well. I have some lovely figure drawings that she did. An art career just wasn't possible."

Nor was it possible for Friedenberg to have the horse she dreamed of. But that didn't stop her from being horse crazy.

"I wanted to do everything with them," she says. "But the only time I could ride was A, when we lived near a stable and B, when there was money available to do it. But I think at a very early age my mother suggested that being a veterinarian might be the way to go, and somehow it stuck."

Friedenberg studied to become a vet at the Royal Veterinary College in London and, as a student, saw practice with an equine vet in Kent, who, eventually, was offered a scholarship to study equine orthopedics at New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pa.

"That was in 1966," she recalls. "The vet I worked with couldn't accept it that year, because his teenage son was having some problems, so he put my name forward. It is the Thouron Award."

"She's very classical. She's very much like Remington. The anatomy is perfect. She knows every part of an animal – inside and out."

– Gallery owner Terry Lindsey, about Kathleen Friendenberg

The Thouron Award, established in 1960 to create better ties between the United Kingdom and the United States by Sir John Thouron and his American wife, Lady Essie duPont Thouron, offered the opportunity to study in any of the University of Pennsylvania's 12 graduate schools, while acting as student ambassadors.

The scholarship is now "among the most prestigious and generous academic scholarships in the world," according to its website, "giving young people of outstanding ability and open minds the means to study, travel and immerse themselves in the life of their host country."

"I had to go through the interviews and all the rest of it," Friedenberg says about being accepted into the program. "And there was a sort of social interview, too. A cocktail party and lunch and so forth, as they wanted to see how you behaved; if you were appropriate for promoting international relations."

She came for a year, hoping to become a large animal vet, and stayed for a lifetime. Friedenberg hoped she would immediately have a chance to work with large animals, something uncommon for women at the time, she says. But in the first year it was suggested she study some human orthopedics in the Graduate School of Medicine at Penn. The suggestion eventually changed her dreams and her life.

She studied basic sciences in the morning and then worked in orthopedics in the afternoons. Her scholarship was extended to a second year at Penn's New Bolton Center and that was a dream. It was what she thought her future would be, as she settled in to working with those large animals – "almost exclusively horses," she says. "All kinds of horses, but a lot of Thoroughbreds."

During her first six months at Penn, she met Dr. Zachary Friedenberg. Their relationship progressed and in that year at New Bolton, she married the Penn professor of orthopedics, who was also chief of orthopedics at Presbyterian Hospital.

"We were married for 43 years, before he passed away [in 2011]," Friedenberg says. "He was much older than me, and we didn't have children. But I've got two stepchildren, who are only five and 10 years younger than I am. They're more like brother and sister."

For various family and other reasons, after she was married, Friedenberg didn't feel she could continue in veterinary medicine.

"There was just no way I could see to manage it," she says now. "So, I started thinking, 'What can I do with what I've got?' "

Making the transition

What she did was take a part-time course at the now-defunct Studio School of Art and Design in Philadelphia. She got some art basics in commercial art "and then I taught myself medical illustration."

She illustrated three books, many articles and did other medical drawings for magazines, including the *Practical Horseman*, producing perfectly structured anatomy.

When you look at the framed drawings from one particular article in that magazine, you see not only the perfection of the study, but the beauty of the work.

"They gave me a few series of photographs of a horse jumping and said to pick out which series I thought was more appropriate and put in the muscles active at any particular stage in the jump," she says, smiling.

"I did this kind of part-time, freelance work for 10 years. And then, I took an evening class at Haverford Township night school in sculpture, just for fun, and got hooked."

It was about 1974 when she took that class, which may seem late to a woman of 32 who had been through several reinventions of herself. But, when you count up the years, well, it is nearly 50 now, that she has been creating her craft.

Friedenberg depicts "The race is off to a flying start right out of the gate" with *Flying Start*.

She did her work so well, *The Chronicle of the Horse* used it on 29 covers of the magazine. She is a longtime instructor and award winner with the American Academy of Equine Art and one of its earliest members, having joined just a year after it was established in 1980. And her work was featured in the academy's recent 40-year anniversary show at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg, Va.

For more than 20 years, she conducted annual workshops of equestrian sculptures for the American Academy at the Kentucky Horse Park and in other states. She also taught classes in sculpture of the horse at the Scottsdale Artists' School in Arizona, and the Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina.

"She's very classical," says Lindsey, the Vermont gallery owner. "She's very much like Remington. The anatomy is perfect. She knows every part of an animal – inside and out. I had artists come and do demonstrations. She came and demonstrated sculpturing every anatomical part. Her conformation and anatomy were all perfectly correct."

Friedenberg also studied with brothers EvAngelos and Zenos Frudakis, who were classically trained and had a recognizable name because Zenos created a number of the largest

sculptures seen in Philadelphia, including *Freedom*, known worldwide, and set in the city's downtown.

"I got very good structural training," Friedenberg admits. But she was the one who brought all the animal structure and anatomy to her work.

Bronze a special art

Much of Friedenberg's work is done in the classic, detailed tradition of bronze, which gives off that warm expensive glow. Some look at a bronze and think, perhaps, the artist simply pours or paints the metal over the artwork once it is finished.

But bronze isn't that simple, though the definition is.

Friedenberg explains, a bronze sculpture is a three-dimensional piece of art made by casting the artist's original model in bronze with traces of other metals.

And though it is not as simple as the idea of an artist simply pouring the bronze over the artwork, it still sounds simple – but it is anything but.

"It's a long, involved, multistage process," Friedenberg says of the work she loves and concentrated on nearly full time once she discovered it.

"It's a very expensive art form," says Lindsey, who also sculpts. "From the low to the high thousands. Being a painter is expensive, too. A painter invests in materials, and you might spend a lot on framing, but it's not to the extent of a sculptor. A lot comes out of their price point. A third goes to the foundry, a third to the artist and a third to the gallery.

"One of Kathie's pieces sold for over $50,000 from my gallery," continues Lindsey. "But Kathie does every possible step in the process. A lot of artists don't do that."

The bronze foundry uses the Lost Wax Method to cast Friedenberg's work. It begins when she creates what is called a maquette, a scale model of a planned full-sized work often made primarily out of clay. But, on this day, Friedenberg shows a recent clay maquette she made of one side of a horse, for a talk she was soon to give at at the Radnor Hunt in Pennsylvania. The undeveloped side showed the skeleton within, made of plumbing pipe and aluminum wire.

Once the maquette is created, the process continues in the foundry for casting.

First, a rubber mold is built around the maquette. The clay is removed, and a wax casting is made in the mold.

The wax is then removed and reworked to eliminate defects.

Once the wax piece is honed to Friedenberg's precise expectations, there are more steps. Among them, the piece is coated with a ceramic shell, then the wax is melted out – and the bronze poured in. When the bronze is cooled, the shell is broken. That's when Friedenberg has the second opportunity to rework the metal and sharpen the image.

> ""I would never have dreamed my life would have gone the way it has. I thought I'd be a veterinarian, staying in England. I assumed somewhere along the line I'd probably get married, but hadn't got much further than that."
>
> *– Kathleen Friedenberg*

"I prefer to rework the wax and the metal myself," she says. "A lot of artists don't. But I usually bring the wax home and do it here, in my own place. And then the metal, I have to do that work in the foundry.

"It's a lot more complicated than it sounds," she says. "I'm leaving out a lot of steps. But, I rework the metal because it's got defects in it and feeds, channels, you know, where the wax came out and the metal ran in."

The reworked metal gets sandblasted, then a patina is put on it, so color is added. All that's done by heating it with a blowtorch and adding chemicals to react with the metal.

And then, finally, it is polished and waxed and placed on a base.

"And that's much simplified," she says, stressing the point again. "There's lots of detail."

Friedenberg admits sculpting has never been a consistently lucrative business. But for years she created more pieces than were sold, like the funny and lovely *After the Bath*, a piece depicting two Thoroughbreds rolling in the mud.

"I think horses are like small boys," she says, with a gentle smile, looking at her work. "They don't like to be clean. In this piece, they've all rolled in the mud after they had a bath."

She says she will not make many new pieces until the ones she has sell.

More than she could imagine

Friedenberg lives in a cottage in Haverford, Pa., with her two rescue dogs, Daisy, a long-legged, short-bodied Dachshund mix, who loves to cuddle and have belly rubs, and

The warm relationship between the huntsman and his hounds comes through in *Opening Meet*.

Fargo, part bulldog, who is happy to lie in the sun and sleep the afternoon away.

"I would never have dreamed my life would have gone the way it has," she says. "I thought I'd be a veterinarian, staying in England. I assumed somewhere along the line I'd probably get married, but hadn't got much further than that."

When reminded of all the awards and accolades she has earned in her unexpected career in bronze art, she cannot help but be content here, a little off the beaten path.

Her work has been acclaimed perennially as special for its accuracy and vitality, by numerous sculpture and art organizations. Among them: The National Sculpture Society, of which she is a Fellow. She has received the Medal of Honor at both the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club and the American Artists Professional League, both in New York; and The American Academy of Equine Art, which has awarded its Award of Excellence to her work many times, including three consecutive years. It also awarded her its Founders' Award for Sculpture in 2017, and again in 2021, when it named her winner of the same award at its 40-year celebration in Middleburg.

"I'm thrilled to bits by all of those, because I always feel my stuff is not up to snuff, you know," she says. "I'm my own worst critic, probably. But it's so fulfilling when other people appreciate it. It makes everything worthwhile."

At 81, she considers herself semi-retired. Osteoarthritis in her hands hurried that decision.

"I had to have these two fingers operated on," she says, looking at her right hand. "It's largely wear and tear from the work. And, I think it was also time, unfortunately, because a lot of the shows that I used to go to are no longer around and I think many of the galleries are now selling very modern stuff. The only one I could find, in Philadelphia, that I thought would sell anything that I produced was Newman Galleries, and they just closed."

But that's not to say she is just being idle.

The *Feisty Filly* statue that will grace the Vermont gallery's entrance shows she is still working.

She still has her work in galleries, too, like Tilting at Windmills in Vermont, and Baileywyck Antiques in The Plains, Va.

If asked, she still gives presentations, and spends some time recasting some of her best-selling works.

It's a career for a lifetime, really, a sentiment she can't deny.

"It's amazing how everything in my life fit in to sculpture," she says now, both amazed and pleased. ■

— Trackside: Monmouth Park —

Summer Stakes Skein

NEW TRAINER SCHULTZ FINDS SUCCESS WITH HIGHESTDISTINCTION, WHELEN SPRINGS

By John Piassek ■ *Photographs by Equi-Photo Inc.*

August was a month to remember for Lindsay Schultz at Monmouth Park. She won stakes races on back-to-back weekends, taking the $100,000 Oceanport with Highestdistinction Aug. 13 and the $250,000 Grade 3 Philip H. Iselin with Whelen Springs Aug. 19. The latter was Schultz's first graded stakes victory.

The victories provided an early peak to Schultz's rapidly ascending training career. Although the 35-year-old Connecticut native has been involved with racing for years, she launched her stable less than two years ago. So far, she has won 22 races and her horses had earned $1,195,171 through Sept. 5.

Schultz got her start with horses not in racing, but through eventing. She rode hunter/jumpers and eventers throughout her teenage years and participated in the Future Farmers of America organization in high school. She enrolled at the University of Louisville, in the shadow of Churchill Downs, in 2006. She first visited Louisville in high school for a FFA convention, and although she was unfamiliar with the racing world, she soon found herself immersed in it.

"I got into racing pretty naturally, being so close to the track," said Schultz. "I went racing at Churchill, and I then worked with some yearlings at Lane's End Farm and hotwalked for Nick Zito. I fell in love with the industry and thought it was something I could make a career out of."

Schultz graduated in 2010, majoring in equine business and minoring in finance. Not long afterward, she was selected for Godolphin's Flying Start program and spent the next two years traveling the world.

"The program is amazing, there's literally nothing to compare it to," said Schultz. "You spend two years immersed in the industry, and you get to do it without making money. You get to see the best operations everywhere in the industry. They're also very conscious of having industry leaders be business-oriented, so not only do we meet the leaders of the Thoroughbred industry, we spent some time at different universities and took different business courses. It gives you a very good background and makes you very well-rounded."

Upon the program's conclusion, Schultz spent six years as an assistant to trainer Tom Proctor. In 2018, she became the manager of Craig Bernick's Glen Hill Farm in Ocala, Fla., continuing to work closely with Glen Hill trainer Proctor. After three years, she left and began working for Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey.

Working under such big names taught Schultz a lot about the industry.

"Everybody has their own way of doing things, but everyone who I've worked for is very meticulous and very detail-oriented," she said. "They really pay attention to the horses and are very patient. They're trying to get the best out of every horse and do the best they can do for the owner and the horse."

After a year with McGaughey, Schultz decided to make the move to training her own string.

"[Going on my own] was something I had always considered, but I got to work for such good people, I wanted to make sure that, if I did it, I did so in a way that I could succeed," said Schultz. "It's obviously very expensive to start your own business, so I had an idea in my head that, if I was going to do it, how I'd need to start."

She got her start through Marshall Gramm, the co-founder of Ten Strike Racing with Clay Sanders.

Whelen Springs (left) prevails in the Grade 3 Philip H. Iselin to give trainer Lindsay Schultz her first graded stakes win.

"I met Lindsay through my bloodstock agent, Liz Crow," Gramm said. "I went to the Notre Dame-Rice game in 2014, and when I was there, I visited Arlington Park, where Lindsay was working for Proctor."

Gramm gave Schultz (while still working for Proctor) homebred filly Dot Notation, who became Schultz's first official starter Oct. 5, 2017, at Delaware Park. The filly made two starts under Schultz's care, finishing unplaced both times, before Schultz took the Glen Hill job.

When she joined the McGaughey barn, Gramm reached out to her.

"I knew at some point, she'd go out on her own, and I told her I would help her out," Gramm said. "We talked about the best options for her and where she should go to get horses and be able to make a career out of it."

Gramm and Schultz claimed some horses in Kentucky, and Schultz officially launched her training career in November

"Monmouth's a really nice place to train, and the purse structure and the races they offer really fit our program. The management has been really good to work with. It's offered us a lot of opportunities."

– Trainer Lindsay Schultz

2021 at Churchill Downs. Upon the conclusion of that meet, she made her way to Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark., where she's been based the past few winters.

"It's a really neat place. Hot Springs is in love with horse racing," she said. "There's a huge fanbase and a lot of support down there."

Schultz won her first race there Jan. 8, 2022, sending Ten Strike's Capture the Glory to victory at 17-1.

"It was his faith and support that pushed me to get started," said Schultz.

She won four races from 34 starts at Oaklawn and, when the meet ended, moved to Monmouth Park.

"Monmouth's a really nice place to train," said Schultz, "and the purse structure and the races they offer really fit our program. The management has been really good to work with. It's offered us a lot of opportunities."

From 27 starts at her first Monmouth meet last year, Schultz won six races, including two on the June 18 program. Alex Joon, claimed by Schultz and Gramm for $30,000 at Oaklawn in December 2021, gave Schultz her first stakes placing that summer at Colonial Downs.

Schultz returned to Monmouth this spring, with a new horse: Highestdistinction. The Willow Lane Stable homebred originally raced for Proctor, and found his way to Schultz through her connection with the trainer. Highestdistinction won twice for Proctor in 2020, lost all 11 starts in 2021 and 2022 for Proctor and trainer Randy Morse and returned from a seven-month layoff in March for Robby Medina. When Monmouth opened, the 6-year-old joined Schultz's barn.

In his second start for Schultz, Highestdistinction won a starter allowance at Delaware Park July 14. On the strength of that win, Willow Lane and Schultz decided to try him in the Oceanport Stakes.

"The race at Delaware was a really nice spot for him," said Schultz. "He got to gain some confidence, as he hadn't won a race in quite awhile. He had run a really nice second to Catnip [who won the Monmouth Stakes-G3 and finished second in the United Nations-G1] in his first start at Monmouth, so we knew he liked the course. Jairo Rendon rode him that day, and we thought the jock suited him. We thought it was a good opportunity for us to show him a big race."

Highestdistinction rewarded Schultz's faith. He sat off the pace on the outside, made his move four wide on the far turn and kicked by late to win by 1½ lengths at 10-1. It was Schultz's second stakes win, following a victory in the Edward P. Evans Stakes with Alex Joon at Colonial July 15.

"We claimed [Alex Joon] together at Oaklawn, he won a race at Oaklawn in March, then ran pretty well against Virginia-breds," said Gramm. "I was excited that it was her first stakes win; little did we know she'd have so many."

Highestdistinction became a graded winner when taking Pimlico's Baltimore-Washington International Turf Cup-G3 Sept. 16 by 3¾ lengths.

Six days after the Oceanport, Schultz sent out Whelen Springs (pronounced "Way-lin") in the Iselin. The 4-year-old Street Sense colt was bred in Arkansas by John Ed Anthony's Shortleaf Stable. Schultz connected with Shortleaf at Oaklawn last winter and campaigned a few runners for them during the Oaklawn season.

"I went out to Mr. Anthony's farm in Hot Springs and talked with him for a couple of hours," said Schultz. "They thought Monmouth might be a really nice place to send some of their 2-year-olds, and they're very supportive of young trainers, so they asked me if I'd be willing to take some of their horses. They obviously breed really nice horses, so it was obviously really exciting for me."

At the conclusion of the Oaklawn meet, at which Whelen Springs finished unplaced in four starts, they transferred him to Schultz in the hopes that a change of scenery would do him good.

Whelen Springs blossomed. He won his first race at Monmouth June 17, taking a third-level allowance optional claimer by a half-length. Next out, he battled Grade 1 winner Proxy down the stretch in the July 22 Monmouth Cup-G2 at 1⅛ miles and finished second. Off that performance, Whelen Springs was pointed toward the 1 1/16-mile Iselin.

Once again, Whelen Springs had an imposing rival. Off two consecutive stakes wins, Brad Cox-trained Zozos was sent

Highestdistinction scores in the Oceanport Stakes at Monmouth in his stakes debut.

off as the 1-2 favorite. Whelen Springs was dismissed at 9-1 in the five-horse field.

"I knew my horse was doing well, and I knew Jose Ferrer gets along with him and rides him well," said Schultz. "I knew he'd put in a good effort for us, but I wasn't quite sure how he'd fit with those horses."

He fit in just fine. Whelen Springs struck the front at the top of the stretch and held on to win by a half-length. Zozos tired badly after setting the pace.

"I was looking for him to take another step forward, and he did," said Schultz. "He really put in his best effort so far." The victory improved Whelen Springs' record to 5-2-2 from 16 starts with earnings of $547,767.

Schultz sometimes finds Whelen Springs a bit tricky to handle.

"He's still a colt, though he's not too studdish," said Schultz. "He certainly has opinions, he's not the most straightforward horse to train. We try not to go too hard on him in the mornings. He obviously puts a lot into his races, so we try to stay out of his way and let him do enough between races to get him ready while keeping him happy."

Along with all her new clients that help comprise her 25-horse barn, Schultz still trains plenty for Ten Strike, including Alex Joon and Yesternight, a daughter of Midnight Storm who finished second in the $200,000 Cathryn Sophia Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at Parx Aug. 22 in her stakes debut.

"She's a pretty special horse for us," said Schultz. "She was the first horse that was meant for my stable. Liz Crow bought her as a yearling [for $50,000 at the Keeneland September in 2021], and we put people together to buy pieces of her, Ten Strike being the main owner.

"She came to us as a 2-year-old, and worked a couple of times, and showed some promise, but she had some issues, so we turned her out for a little while. I remember going up to her first race, she kept working better and better. I kept putting her with faster horses, and she kept showing more and more in the mornings."

Yesternight broke her maiden at first asking at Oaklawn at 14-1 April 22.

"I didn't think anything of her debut," said Gramm. "I didn't bet her that day, but the filly ran huge, and at that point, you get super-excited."

Yesternight ran twice at Monmouth, a third in a first-level allowance June 3 on a dull rail, then winning that condition July 14. Following that race, Madaket Stables purchased a minority share. With her stakes win, Yesternight boosted her earnings to $134,400.

Gramm remains one of Schultz's biggest fans. "She's very hard-working, extremely smart, and has a lot of experience. She's honest and a great communicator. She's been a pleasure to work with and I'm super-excited about her success."

The pace of that success surprised Schultz.

"It's pretty insane how we ran all these nice stakes horses around the same time," said Schultz. "I'm very thankful to these owners that have supported me and kind of helped me get the horses in the barn and given me a chance to have these types of horses."

She plans to return to Oaklawn this winter, then head back to the Jersey Shore next summer in pursuit of more stakes riches.

MONMOUTH NOTES: **Occult** was a runaway winner of the Monmouth Oaks-G3 July 29, drawing off to win by 10¼ lengths under Feargal Lynch. She's owned by Alpha Delta Stables and trained by Chad Brown . . . Trainer George Weaver swept the first 2-year-old stakes of the season, winning the July 29 Colleen with **Amidst Waves** and the July 30 Tyro with **No Nay Mets (Ire)** . . . In other 2-year-old action, **Princess Indy** got up to win the Sorority Aug. 20 for owner Valter Ramos, leading trainer Claudio Gonzalez and jockey Carlos Rojas, while **Noted** ran down Dornoch to win the Sapling Aug. 26 for Repole Stable, Todd Pletcher and Jairo Rendon . . . **Swirvin** rallied three wide to take the Jersey Shore Aug. 5, with Trevor McCarthy aboard for owner Bassett Stables and trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. . . . Jersey-breds took center stage Aug. 27 for the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival. **Speaking** lasted through fast fractions and won the New Jersey Breeders Handicap. The Holly Crest Farm homebred is trained by Eddie Owens Jr. and was ridden by Rendon . . . Later on the card, **Mia's Crusade** took the Eleven North Handicap. The 4-year-old filly was bred by Dianne Boyken and owned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia and trainer Chuck Spina, with Jomar Torres in the saddle. It was the second stakes win of the meet for both Jersey-breds, as Speaking won the John J. Reilly Handicap on May 21 and Mia's Crusade took the Spruce Fir Handicap May 20. ■

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Another Classic Card

COASTAL MISSION WINS RUSSELL ROAD AS BIG NAMES, GRADED RACES DRIVE HANDLE

By John Piassek ■ *Photographs by Coady Photography*

For most of Charles Town's history, the idea of having one graded event all year, let alone two on the same night, was the stuff of fantasy.

Since the inauguration of the $750,000 Charles Town Oaks-G3 and the $1 million Charles Town Classic-G2 in 2009, both events have grown in stature, and they've grown even more since being moved to the same night in 2020. This year's Oaks/Classic card, Aug. 25, saw a record handle of $7,976,942, up 23.2 percent from last year's card and 212.5 percent higher than the inaugural Classic program in 2009.

Skippylongstocking won the Classic by 5 lengths in a dominant gate-to-wire performance for owner Daniel Alonso, trainer Saffie Joseph Jr., and jockey Tyler Gaffalione. It was the fourth graded stakes victory for the 4-year-old colt, whose career earnings rose to $1,504,185. Joseph also sent out runner-up O'Connor (Chi), who was 1½ lengths clear of the Kenny McPeek-trained Dash Attack in third. Local hero Muad'dib, second in last year's Classic, settled for fourth in a field of 10.

The Oaks, meanwhile, went to Vahva, who picked up her first stakes win by 1¼ lengths as the 7-5 favorite. John Velazquez rode for trainer Cherie DeVaux and an ownership partnership led by Belladonna Racing. Such big names used to be unheard of at the West Virginia track, but now top trainers and jockeys make the trip annually.

The growth of these races, now complemented by three other open stakes: the $350,000 Robert Hilton Memorial for 3-year-olds, the $250,000 Misty Bennett Pink Ribbon for older fillies and mares and the $250,000 Russell Road for older male sprinters, have helped lift Charles Town's national profile. Handle figures of $2 million or more are not uncommon, and the inaugural Classic card handle of $2,552,249 has been surpassed four times this year.

Erich Zimny, who joined Charles Town in 2008 as racing administrator and served as the track's director of racing from 2009-22, was instrumental in the creation of the Classic and the Oaks.

"We had a pretty comprehensive plan to move the product and the volume of business forward at the track," said Zimny, now with Penn Gaming's Hollywood Casino in Ohio. "One of the components of the strategy was to build some large-scale racing events that would ingrain us to the national racing scene a bit and give us some brand visibility on the biggest stage. I'm certainly a believer that stories in sports get told by the size of the stage, and in our case, we had to build it."

The Classic and the Oaks were originally contested on opposite parts of the year, with the Classic taking place in mid-April, and the Oaks in mid-September.

"It gave us a nice continuum of events from Triple Crown season to the Breeders' Cup, and there were hopefully some horses to run in those events who'd run in the Breeders' Cup and boost our visibility," Zimny said.

Locally based Researcher, trained by Jeff Runco, won the first two editions of the Classic. In 2011, its first year of graded eligibility, the race received Grade 3 status, boosted to Grade 2 the following year. In 2015, the race switched to daytime from its nighttime slot.

Over time, the handle slowly crept up. The card handled $3 million for the first time in 2012, then $4 million in 2013, when the California-based Game On Dude won. The 2013 running was also the first year the race was run for up to a $1.5 million purse, with a third of that figure in the

Left: Skippylongstocking and Tyler Gaffalione return after winning the Grade 2 Charles Town Classic.
Right: Vahva charges to a win in the Grade 3 Charles Town Oaks, her first stakes score.

form of bonuses for runners who had previously won other major races. Wagering surpassed $5 million for the first time in 2019, when West Virginia-bred Runnin'toluvya gave the hometown team a Classic victory.

The Oaks, meanwhile, moved from August to a mid-September slot in 2010. Handle slowly grew on that card, from $1,114,864 in 2009 to $2,316,878 in 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic, which forced the cancellation of the Classic's usual date, necessitated a change. The Classic and the Oaks were moved to late August and switched to a Friday night.

"We were shut down during Covid that April [2020]," said Charlie McIntosh, Charles Town's director of racing, "and so when we came back, we moved everything to the August date."

The changes proved a wild success. Handle reached $5,663,061 on the combined 2020 program, and management made the change permanent. Since then, more than $6 million has been wagered each year on the Oaks/Classic program. The Oaks has also seen a dramatic purse increase, rising from $300,000 in 2019 to $750,000 this year.

"It worked for that year, even though it was born out of necessity, and we've done it going forward for the last few years," said Zimny, "and the business volume has steadily increased beyond what we hoped it would."

McIntosh said putting together the fields for Classic and Oaks night is one of the most important parts of his job. He believes combining the two races and moving them to late August "strengthens both fields. Most trainers that we recruit for these races, you know, most of them who have horses for the Classic also have a nice 3-year-old filly for the Oaks, or vice versa. People can bring more than one horse for the graded races, and it strengthens the overall card. We're up to nine stakes races on the card, and they're very competitive races. It's gotten to the point where horsemen know to point for these races. It makes recruiting a bit easier."

Joseph, for example, brought six runners to Classic/Oaks night. In addition to his Classic pair, he saddled Mish and Lord Miles, second in the Russell Road and the Robert Hilton, respectively.

"The menu is pretty diverse," McIntosh said. "We have races for older girls, older boys, and you'll find most trainers have horses for the big races also have horses for the other three [open] stakes."

McIntosh says the unique 6-furlong configuration of Charles Town is not a serious impediment to attracting prospective entrants.

"That was an obstacle early on," he said. "It was something we had to overcome early, but once people saw other train-

"It's great to win any stakes race, but it's especially great to win one with one of your own. He's a real good horse to train, a smart horse, and he's still young, so hopefully he keeps moving forward"

– Trainer Jeff Runco, about Coastal Mission

ers come in and do well, I think that set aside some of their concerns."

Zimny and McIntosh emphasized the importance of the Classic and the Oaks to the year-round racing calendar.

"We didn't feel like you could operate in a bubble. We needed something to carry the brand, to make the signal visible, to tie us in with the national racing scene," Zimny said. "By doing that, it raised the profile of the track as a whole and created a spillover effect to other days of the year where business volumes would steadily increase, and they have. When I left, handle per race had tripled from where it was before we ran the Classic. The strategy really worked and the guys there now are carrying it forward."

Wagering has indeed grown dramatically, with total handle rising from $227.6 million in 2012 to $310.5 million in 2022.

"[The Classic and the Oaks] have a huge impact on us," agreed MacIntosh. "It's certainly given us a lot of credibility within the industry, and not only do we have a big night where eyes across the entire country are on us. Since the races started, our profile has become much more visible in a positive way."

Zimny called Runnin'toluvya's 2019 win a highlight of the Classic's history: "People always thought, 'Oh, you just want to get the big horses from out of town,' and that was definitely true, but at the same time, we wanted the local horses and horsemen to participate and make a name for themselves, so that people around the country would have a better idea of who they are. Those are the horsemen who are going to be carrying the brand most other nights of the year. In 2019, when we finally got to the point of having a huge national race, and you had a horse who was born a few miles up the road, I felt like that was one of the biggest moments in the history of the racetrack. It was huge for the race and showed that the horses on the ground can run a little bit, too."

Zimny firmly believes major races like the Classic and Oaks provide year-round benefits to Charles Town.

"Our rule, as a racetrack, was to move the overall business volume forward. If you want to look at the business volume that it produced, that translated into money that was going back into the purse fund that wouldn't otherwise be there, there was a ton of money that went back in. It benefits racing here year-round, not just on that one day. I've never heard anyone say they should stop running the Haskell or the Preakness because out-of-town horses always win those. Those events that are on the big stage are a humongous part of what the sport is, and they make the track visible and provide a ton of benefit."

The top local horse this year was Coastal Mission, who won the Russell Road by 2¾ lengths. It was the eighth consecutive victory at Charles Town for the West Virginia-bred, born and raised at Jeff and Susan Runco's Coleswood Farm in Ranson, W.Va. Jeff Runco trained his full brother, Lewisfield, who won four stakes in a 27-race career and earned $535,264. In the middle of Lewisfield's career, Runco purchased his dam, Smart Crowd, and bred her back to Great Notion for the 2019 season. Coastal Mission was the resulting foal.

"He showed promise from the very beginning," said Runco. "With his first few workouts and his first few races, we knew he had a bright future."

Runco gave him some time off following a second in the Coin Collector Stakes in May 2022, but he returned to the races with a dominant 6¾-length triumph in a West Virginia-bred allowance Dec. 8. He stayed against state-bred foes for most of this year, racking up a 6-for-6 record, including a win in the April 22 Confucius Say Stakes. His only out-of-state venture came March 18, when he was fifth in the Not For Love Stakes at Laurel Park.

When the Russell Road came around, Runco decided the time was right for another try against open company.

"He had done everything right, he had shown us he's a good racehorse, and we thought this was the time," he said. "My wife and I talked about it, and we decided to give him a shot. If he was ever going to race in open company, this would be the place to do it."

The gamble proved to be smart. Under Charles Town's leading rider, Arnaldo Bocachica, Coastal Mission rated off the pace and hit the front on the final turn to win by 2¾ lengths over the Joseph-trained Mish. Horses from the barns of high-profile trainers Steve Asmussen, Peter Miller, Eddie

Coleswood Farm's homebred Coastal Mission streaks to victory over some big names in the Russell Road Stakes to lead the locals on Charles Town Classic night.

Kenneally and Bill Mott finished farther back in the field. The victory boosted the winner's earnings to $431,653, placing him third on the Coleswood-bred money list behind North Atlantic ($719,454) and In the Fairway ($579,805).

"It's great to win any stakes race, but it's especially great to win one with one of your own," said Runco. "He's a real good horse to train, a smart horse, and he's still young, so hopefully he keeps moving forward."

As the night continues to grow, Charles Town is optimistic about the stakes being upgraded. The Pink Ribbon has been won by graded stakes winners each of the last three years, most recently by Society, who won last year's Cotillion Stakes-G1.

"I think the Oaks is certainly sitting on being a Grade 2," McIntosh said. "That's one reason I increased the purse so much, and made it the richest 3-year-old filly sprint race in the country. It was designed to push it further up the ladder. We're really excited about the future of the day. We feel that each year gets a little better. It was a great night and a very safe night for horses and riders."

Charles Town Notes

The Hilton Memorial went to **Damon's Mound**, who lasted through fast early fractions to win by 2 lengths. Cliff and Michele Love's homebred is trained by Michelle Lovell and ridden by Junior Alvarado . . . In addition to the open stakes on the Classic/Oaks card, Charles Town hosted four West Virginia-bred stakes. The late Dennis Bybee bred **Jefferson Native**, winner of the Last Enchantment Stakes for owner T.W. Stables and trainer Linda Dollinger-Stehr. **Stryda** won her third in a row in the Autumn Stakes for breeder Jill Daniel, owner FTF Racing and trainer Jamey Johnson, Tim and Judy Grams' homebred **Lucky Blonde** took the Sadie Hawkins, and **No Change**, bred by the late John McKee and owned and trained by his wife, Cynthia, won the Frank Gall Memorial . . . Anthony Farrior held a commanding lead in the trainers' standings with 99 wins through Sept. 10. Ronney Brown, who won his 3,000th race May 13, and Runco were battling for second with 65 and 61 wins, respectively . . . Bocachica was well on pace for his sixth consecutive Charles Town riding title, with 133 wins from 451 mounts through Sept. 10. ■

All's Fine at the Fair

MARYLAND'S ANNUAL STOP AT TIMONIUM BUILDS ON SUCCESS

By John Piassek

With the fun, festive atmosphere, it's hard not to have a good time at Timonium. This year, however, the good times were ratcheted up a notch, thanks to increased field size and handle.

Live wagering on the seven-day meet, which annually coincides with the Maryland State Fair, totaled $716,384, up 11.25 percent from last year. Export wagering rose 39.66 percent to $4,103,198, while total wagering at the fair, including money wagered at Timonium on live and simulcast wagering plus all export wagering on Timonium, increased 11.11 percent to $7,827,083.

Like others, state fair board chairman Gerry Brewster singled out Timonium's unique characteristics for the success.

"Everybody loves coming to the Big T," said Brewster, a board member for 38 years. "You can get up close and personal with the racehorses. There's so much fun to be had by everyone."

Brewster, whose father Daniel was the fair president from 1958-62, gave credit to the Timonium staff: "There's no question that the great success of the race meet can be directly attributed to all those involved, and that's not only the owners, trainers, jockeys and horses, but also all those in the trenches, who do the hard work behind the scenes. Everyone worked in harmony to make the Timonium race meet a great success with measurable improvements in all categories."

That list included racing secretary Georganne Hale, starter Bruce Wagner, track announcer Dave Rodman, outriders, stewards, photographers, mutuels manager Tim Luzius and the tellers, the television crew and more.

Timonium's 5-furlong racetrack again provided a venue appreciated by Brewster, horsemen and fans.

"Our track superintendent, Tommy Rowan, under the supervision of Chief [Don] Denmeyer, maintained a racing surface that is nationally regarded for its consistency and safety, and had no fatalities during its racing meet," Brewster said.

Organizers peppered the meet with events. The track hosted its annual College Day at the Races Aug. 26, which awarded $1,000 scholarships to 10 Maryland college students. The following Saturday, United States Pony Racing held a series of races in the morning, followed by the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame ceremony in the afternoon, where Ben's Cat and Mountain Dew were formally enshrined. Fran Burns and Donna Sullivan held the ever-popular backstretch tours, which departed from the Horseland pavilion, where fans could learn about racing and the horse industry. Grooms of the best-prepared horse in each race received awards.

Two of the major behind-the-scenes players are Timonium director of racing Bill Reightler and Bill Marlow, the chairman of the Maryland State Fair racing committee who work with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen and others to produce the race meet.

"It's the culmination of a lot of hard work and cooperation from the horsemen, the MHBA, the MTHA and our sponsors," said Reightler. "You know, our purses are certainly at a point now where people are participating more, and there's a lot of competition in the Mid-Atlantic area for horses, but we had a nice increase in field size."

Field size averaged 6.35 horses per race, the highest mark since 2019, but Reightler said Timonium's mission goes beyond horses on the track.

Maryland-bred Response Time, a daughter of Mosler, scores her first stakes win in the Timonium Distaff for Men's Grille Racing.

"We love the tradition, the fans can get closer to the horses than at any track in Maryland," he said. "We see our role as bringing new fans to the sport. We have half a million people coming through the turnstiles, we really work with Horseland and other things to introduce them to the racing and breeding business."

Reightler echoed Brewster's sentiments on the work of Rowan and Denmeyer, including the passage of an inspection from the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority: "HISA has recognized that our track is safe and gave us a good bill of health. They did an excellent job, and always do, working on our racetrack."

Marlow was also pleased with the racing: "All our figures were up this year, in every category. The only figure that was down was the number of scratches per race."

Marlow spent most racing days on the second floor of the grandstand, and paid attention to fan reactions.

"I hear them cheering and encouraging the riders on," he said. "I think we had our biggest crowd in the grandstand. I can't tell you how many there were, but you'd be hard-pressed to see an area where no one was sitting in. I'd see them go and wager on the races, which was really heartening to see. The other thing is, when racing was over, I saw a lot of folks heading over to the fair. It makes for a full day: fans come for the races, then go enjoy the fair."

Marlow cited the support of the fair's agricultural committee, led by Dave Brauning, as key.

"We rely on that committee for support during our board meetings and when we're voting on various items about maintaining our track," Marlow said. "It often involves spending a lot of money.

"People sometimes ask how much racing makes for the fair, well, the good news is that those improvements have enabled us to partner with Fasig-Tipton for the very popular 2-year-old sale. We had horses breeze over our track in May [and again for a sale in June], and we didn't have a complaint. If I didn't have the agriculture committee's support to spend the money, we might not be able to do that."

> "Our campus is in the best shape it's been in in many decades, our finances are sound, our popularity is strong and the things that we provide to the community are well-received."
>
> *– Maryland State Fair chairman Gerry Brewster*

Marlow relayed an anecdote that captures the spirit of the fair meet. He and former Maryland Jockey Club president Sal Sinatra were walking on the first floor of the grandstand and encountered a father and son headed to the fair.

"The boy noticed that one of the monitors was showing the prior day's races and a tug-of-war ensued between father and son, with the boy making it clear he wanted to see the horses run," Marlow said. "The dad promised they would return, and Sal said, 'Timonium's generating our future patrons.' I said, 'Sal, I couldn't agree with you more.' The kids can get immersed in all things racing at Horseland, attend a stable tour, then come back after they've got on the rides and attend the races, get their photos taken with an outrider pony, get a set of goggles from a jockey. I can't tell you the number of people who have come to me with those memories, and they're lasting memories."

Brewster will step down as chairman in November, ending eight decades of his family's influence at the fair. "I'm very grateful to have been able to continue my father's legacy of stewardship of the Maryland State Fair that started in the 1950s. Both my father and I were lifelong horsemen and believe in all equine activities as a historic and integral part of Maryland's economy, history and culture that is diversifying into many different aspects of equine enjoyment, which is more diverse than it has ever been.

"We're glad to have been of service for so long, but there comes a time where I think any organization benefits from a new set of eyes and a new vision of the future . . . The Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society is in great shape right now. Our campus is in the best shape it's been in in many decades, our finances are sound, our popularity is strong and the things that we provide to the community are well-received."

On The Track

Response Time won the first stakes race of the Timonium meet, the Aug. 26 Timonium Distaff, by 1¼ lengths under Jeiron Barbosa for trainer Hammy Smith. The daughter of Country Life Farm stallion Mosler earned her first stakes victory and improved to 8-8-2 from 30 starts with earnings of $460,658. She was purchased for $100,000 by Men's Grille Racing at Timonium's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale in 2020.

One week later, 2-year-olds took center stage in the Sept. 2 Timonium Juvenile. Built Wright Stables' homebred Sweet Soddy J overcame an adventurous trip to win by 3 lengths for trainer Raymond Ginter Jr., with Barbosa aboard. He checked hard in the opening eighth when early leader Frosty the Giant dropped in front of him, then rated off the early leaders toward the inside. Barbosa had to be patient and steadied again, waiting until a hole opened at the top of the stretch. Sweet Soddy J moved through and won going away.

"He's kind of a lazy horse, he's kind of laid back, but when it's time to go, he really performs well. We're excited about the future," said Lynn Cash, who owns Built Wright with his wife Lola. The winner is the first homebred stakes winner for the Cashes, who claimed his dam Sweet Rhapsody for $6,250 in March 2019. A son of Bee Jersey, Sweet Soddy J broke his maiden in his debut at Colonial Downs Aug. 10,

In the winner's circle for the trophy presentation, Marlow called that stakes result another good example of Timonium's impact.

"The connections came over to me and were effusive in telling me what a great time they had," he said. "They pointed over to the grandstand and said, 'We've been here all day, we love it here.' That's the kind of experience you want every horseman and patron to have."

The trainers' race was dominated by the husband/wife team of Jerry and Gina Robb. Jerry won nine races at the meet to lead the way, while Gina was tied for second with five. Xavier Perez, the first-call rider for the Robbs, led the jockeys' standings with 12 victories from 32 mounts.

While Jerry is no stranger to Mid-Atlantic race fans, the Timonium meet marked a return to training for Gina. She took out her trainer's license in early 2014 and won 44 races from 225 starts, but stepped away in 2017 to focus on running No Guts No Glory Farm in Woodbine. She hired some extra help earlier this year and freed up the schedule to return to training.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

Sweet Soddy J shows the way late in the $75,000 Timonium Juvenile to remain undefeated for breeder/owner Built Wright Stables.

"[Jerry] said, 'You decide which ones you want to train,' " said Gina, "and so we came to an agreement of who takes who."

Most of the ones she took were homebreds or horses who had been on the shelf for a while.

Gina, previously one of Timonium's on-air handicappers, had her best day Sept. 3, winning with all three starters. To her, the highlight came Sept. 1, when homebred Bigdaddysboy won. The son of Imagining is the final foal out of Bigdaddysgirl. Gina kept Bigdaddysgirl as a broodmare following her racing career, and she enjoyed great success, with six winners from as many foals. One of Bigdaddysboy's half-siblings, Outwithbigdaddy (Outflanker), was Gina's most successful runner, with five victories, including the 2016 Tax Free Shopping Distaff Stakes at Delaware Park, and earnings of $173,228.

"His mother, who started me in the business, won 11 races. I get goosebumps just talking about her," said Gina. "She was 11 months pregnant last year, and I had to do two colic surgeries on her, and we lost her. It was absolutely devastating. It's a special story to win with him."

Gina also kept Outwithbigdaddy as a broodmare, and she has three winners from as many starters. Her most recent foal to race, 2-year-old Imagining filly Remember Me, finished third in the Keswick Stakes at Colonial Downs Aug. 5.

Gina hopes to get stalls at Laurel Park in the near future and build a client base. She also made special mention of the opportunities received with the Timonium racing program:

"Timonium really helps the little guy," she said. "These guys work night and day. We cry a lot, we laugh a lot, we work really hard, and it's hard to sit in the stall for two months when you don't have a race to run in. Running here gives them an opportunity to find the races they need."

Another notable moment for a Timonium trainer came Aug. 27, when Kieron Magee won his 1,000th race with Viking Queen. Magee has worked in the Maryland racing industry for more than four decades and won his first race as a trainer in 1999. He's won or tied for the leading trainer title at 10 Maryland meets.

Axel Concepcion, who has placed himself in the conversation for an Eclipse Award as the nation's top apprentice jockey, finished second to Perez with eight victories. ■

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

October – Time to Pay the Bills

I've written before about how Dixie and I went to Saratoga in 1971, and how we realized that being a Thoroughbred sales agent neatly dovetailed with the "fitting and showing" skills we had absorbed in our prior lives in show hunters, eventing and Pony Club.

I've written about building that business: attracting clients with horses to sell; and learning, through trial, error, and having our own money invested, what we could sell and what the market would not swallow.

But I've never really written about mounting a consignment and putting on the show. I use the word show because that is what a consignor is doing for the three, four, or even five days prior to the auction. The logistics are remarkable.

Let us assume, for demonstration purposes, that we are taking 50 yearlings to the October Sale in Timonium. That is about an average number for Charlton in its heyday. After the horses have been entered and the authorization of agency has been filed with Fasig-Tipton, the first job is to place the horses on farms where they can be prepared to the standard on which you insist. Some will be prepared at home by clients. These will have to be visited with regularity dependent upon the client's skills and dedication to doing the work required. It's often necessary to coordinate these visits with that of the blacksmith to "suggest" how you want the feet to look and travel when the horses arrive on the sales grounds. With this number of horses, shoeing on the grounds is impossible.

One of the many things that makes Timonium different from Ocala and Keeneland is that all of the horses in your consignment are on the grounds for the entire sale as well as the pre-sale showing period. At other sales, there are not enough stalls to stable all the horses cataloged at one time. As horses are sold the stalls are cleaned and assigned to horses selling in later sessions. At Timonium, every horse in the sale is on the grounds from ship-in day until the last hammer falls. If you have a 50-horse consignment you must have equipment for all 50 horses.

If the sale falls on Monday and Tuesday, as many do, the horses ship in Friday, show Saturday and Sunday, and sell alphabetically by their dams' names on the two sale days. Horses selling on Tuesday are on the grounds for five nights. Thursday is set-up day when 50 stalls are bedded with two bales of straw and buckets, tubs and stall screens are hung in each stall. Appropriate signage, including a stall card for each individual horse, is hung. A tack room needs to be set up with tables, tack hooks and medicine cabinets and a hay room established for storing hay and bedding as well as the equipment for cleaning stalls and maintaining the shedrows and showing area. Hoses, yards and yards of hoses, are needed. Shrubs and flowers are often used to decorate the area. Most of the landscaping on our farm was leftover shrubbery from Timonium sales.

In about 2007 we were lucky enough to find Jeff Devrees, a Pittsburgh taxi-cab and Standardbred driver, as our set-up man. I could drop off the equipment trailer on Wednesday and Jeff would arrive early Thursday morning and, with help commensurate with the size of the consignment, would have the entire consignment ready to receive horses Friday morning.

Friday, move-in day, was organized chaos. Horses shipping from Kentucky usually arrived first. Having shipped overnight, the vans might arrive as early as 6 a.m. Horses were unloaded and led to their assigned stalls and left alone for an hour or so to acclimate. Once they settled down, bandages were removed and each horse was given a bath. No matter how clean they were when they got on the van, they still needed baths on arrival. At this point, staffers noted horses who needed clipping or mane-pulling. I was a fanatic about the manes so most needed some attention there. The routine was to feed them after baths to distract them from the tendency to roll as they dried. Once bathed and fed the horses could be ignored and allowed to rest unless their manes needed attention.

As Friday progressed, more vans arrived and the same process was followed. A new leather halter with nameplate

was fitted after the bath so that horses would be returned to the correct stalls. We always put the hip number on the name plate as a secondary precaution. Once, when I was working for Albert Yank in California, an eager young foreman decided to have us clean all the halters before the stall cards were hung. We ended up with 60 horses and 60 halters and no idea how they went together. If you're wondering – foal papers. We had to match each horse with the foal papers on file with the sales company. It took an entire day.

Debbie Moorefield was the indispensible cog that made all of Charlton's gears mesh. She was in charge of all of the paperwork, hiring, book and record keeping, as well as being on the sales grounds from beginning to end.

Hiring was no mean feat. With a 50-horse consignment we needed 20-25 employees. Luckily, there is a roving band of itinerant sales workers. These are, mostly, young men and women with some type of horse background. Some were galloping girls seeking quick cash; some were show-horse grooms or riders; almost all had been on the track at some point. They travel the circuit from Keeneland in January, through Ocala, Saratoga, Keeneland September and Keeneland November and Timonium May, October and December.

Like any workforce, there are a few miscreants but almost all are honest, hard-working, genial, and superb horsemen and women who make the sale function. They often work from 4 a.m. until 5 p.m. and longer on sale days. They are a great group of people. Oh, and they all need to be fed. The Thoroughbred industry is replete with veterans of Charlton consignments – the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Cricket Goodall, Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett, St. George Sales' Michelle St. George and Audley Farm's Jamie McDiarmid to name a few. Include in that group Susan Cooney, Nicole Stall, Tim Woolley, Beasie Patterson and Isabelle Drenning – really too many to name.

Another of Debbie's jobs was to set up and stock the kitchen stall or food room. No dinners served but breakfast, lunch and all types of snacks. This is when buying in bulk actually pays off.

Saturday and Sunday are for showing. All horses must be mucked, bathed, groomed and polished by 8 a.m. Prospective buyers arrive early and, especially on the first day, many ask to see every horse in the consignment. This is what we called a "code red." It was a point of pride for me that no one waited more than a minute to have a horse in front of him or her. On a "code red" or "all show" a showman and two grooms would get the first horse ready. Three more would be in the next stall doing the same. Whoever was ready first brought out their horse. One of the grooms would go to the third stall and get that one ready while her partner waited to take the first horse from the showman – and so forth down one side of the shedrow and up the other. So that's six people working with one buyer. Invariably when you were halfway through the process another "code red" would show up. The process would start all over with six more people tied up for however long it took. Here's the kicker, you can't ask two people to look at the same horse because some people are quick and some are agonizingly slow and your whole system gets thrown out of whack.

This process would go on from 8 a.m. until the lookers dwindled. Often they did not dwindle and we would just stop showing and start doing night stables; feed, water, hay in the stalls, hay and straw outside the stalls for the night man and the morning muck out. At 4 or 5 a.m., it would start all over again.

Sale days were more of the same until the auction started when a specially selected crew would prep horses for the ring and the most experienced hands would do the lead up. With 50 horses in a 450-horse sale there was almost always a horse at the ring and one or more in prep.

I've previously written about the veterinary repository and the issues with vetting at the sales. Suffice it to say we were always happy to see a vet in the shedrow, but they could disrupt a well-honed system. As happy as we were to see them, we were even happier to see the back of them. A book was kept with the name of the vet, time of examination and the client if the vet would disclose that information. This knowledge enhanced your ability to advise clients and set reserves.

Once a horse was sold, a health record tag was attached to its halter and its care became the responsibility of the buyer. We would, however, hay and water it until it was taken away by the shipper. Everyone was under strict orders not to touch the horse to avoid liability issues.

On Wednesday, a full week after it arrived on the grounds, Jeff and I would refill the equipment trailer and head up the road to home.

Our entire aim was to give the buyers no hint of the amount of work that was being done to present them, in under a minute, a horse for their inspection and, we hoped, purchase. This, along with his market knowledge, is how the sales agent pays his bills. ■

The Steeplechase Times

Broken to best

MERRY MAKER RETURNS FROM FRACTURE TO WIN GRADE 1 STAKES

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Tod Marks*

Two years ago, Merry Maker (Ire) won his hurdle debut for trainer Arch Kingsley and owner Pierre Manigault at Great Meadow in Virginia. The 4-year-old gelding, an Irish point-to-point winner in the spring and a half-brother to the Kingsley-trained Grade 1 winner Show Court (Ire), blitzed eight foes from the front and looked like a promising addition to the stable.

The next day, Kingsley went to see his horse at the barn.

"We were all excited and still celebrating and happy about it," Kingsley said, "and I walked him out of the stall and he was three-legged lame."

Merry Maker was diagnosed with a stress fracture of his tibia (a bone in the hind leg between the stifle and hock). The break healed with rest, but a budding steeplechase career took a long pause. A year later, Merry Maker returned to the races, on the same course, and finished fifth after vying for the early lead. He tried again three weeks later and was beaten 45 lengths, while also pressing the pace.

"He won on the lead that first day so what do we do off a year layoff when we bought him back last fall? Against winners?" Kingsley said. "You go back to old tactics. It didn't go well at all."

Kingsley and his horse started over in 2023 and Merry Maker responded. In May, the 6-year-old won a first-level allowance hurdle by rallying from well back in a field of nine, finished third in a novice stakes at Saratoga Aug. 2 and was a still-running-late fourth in the Jonathan Sheppard Handicap-G1 at Saratoga three weeks later.

At Aqueduct Racetrack Sept. 14, the son of German-bred Malinas completed the full turnaround by upsetting the $150,000 Lonesome Glory Handicap-G1. Parker Hendriks put the bay gelding in the back of a seven-horse field as favorite Snap Decision set a measured-but-pressured tempo up front for 2 miles. Merry Maker jumped the final fence, on the backside, with everyone still in front of him but found his best stride and rallied past four horses on the turn.

Looking for his 13th win over jumps, Snap Decision led to the stretch, was collared by L'Imperator (Fr) at the eighth pole and offered no response as Merry Maker joined the fray late. He swept past Saratoga allowance winner L'Imperator to win by a half-length. Barbados (Ire) rallied for third to complete a Kingsley-trained trifecta after 2½ miles in 4:41.02 over a good turf course. Carrying 162 pounds, 20-22 more than the others, Snap Decision faded to fourth.

"I was going to be a victim to any pace anybody else goes because I was going to drop out," said Hendriks of his pre-race intentions. "I thought Snap Decision would be good and handy and I was hoping somebody was going to press him, so he didn't get too soft of a lead. I was happy where I was, attached but switched off in the back. Turning in [to the stretch], I could see Snap receding and I was just hoping my horse would stay going the way he was. I had ridden L'Imperator, and I thought he would run really well especially on this ground, it's a little softer."

Merry Maker improved to 3-for-7 (all over jumps) and collected $90,000 to get to $152,450 in earnings. He joined a crowded group of contenders for the steeplechase championship as the four Grade 1 stakes of 2023 have been won by four horses. The $250,000 American Grand National at Far Hills, N.J., Oct. 14 could settle it, or make it even more confusing.

As he learned that day in 2021, Kingsley won't think too far ahead. He'll take the Grade 1 win. He'd entered four

Merry Maker (left) rallies past L'Imperator to win the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory at Aqueduct in September.

horses in the race, but Cibolian was scratched after a pre-race veterinary inspection. The remaining trio went 1-2-3. Mainly based in Camden, S.C., the former jump jockey took a small string to Saratoga early this summer and stayed there through the meet before shipping back to Fair Hill in early September. The Lonesome Glory was Kingsley's 10th win of the year (eight jump, two flat). One more will tie a career high. Merry Maker started at 16-1 in the Lonesome Glory, but wasn't a longshot.

"Not to us," said Kingsley, who credited daughter Taylor with much of the hard work in the barn and on horses in the morning. "Our team walked in here thinking we had the three horses to beat. Horses are always the reflection of the people around them. Of course, they carry the ability given to them but they're also carrying all the energy of the people pouring their lives into them. We believed in them, and they knew that."

The confidence spilled over to Hendriks, who won his first race since April 29, his fourth of the year after winning 25 to claim the championship last year. Falls took their toll this spring and he missed two months, but he'd also endured long losing streaks and moved on from a first-call partnership with trainer Keri Brion.

"It's been really tough," said the jockey, who picked up the first Grade 1 win of his career. "I've talked to a lot of people, just getting my confidence back. Today I said, 'Look, Arch is confident in the horse, I have every reason to be confident in him,' and I just rode him with as much confidence as I could. When it works out like that, it's incredible. It doesn't always work out, everybody knows that. It's been a tough year, but look, everybody has tough times, and you just have to get keep going and get through it."

Summer Rewind

Weather cancelations and low entries combined to limit the Saratoga steeplechase schedule to four races.

The late-summer hero in New York was clearly Awakened. Trained by Jack Fisher for Riverdee Stable and Ten Strike Racing, the chestnut son of Curlin landed the $150,000 Jonathan Sheppard-G1 Aug. 23. The win was his third in nine starts over jumps and came three weeks after finishing second to McTigue (Ire) in the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes at Saratoga.

The second novice stakes on the Saratoga calendar was canceled, sending six horses from that division to the unrestricted Grade 1 against the more-experienced Noah And The

Awakened flies a fence at Saratoga in his Grade 1 win in the Jonathan Sheppard in August.

> What a lovely horse. I got the splits when I needed to and I pressed every button going up the straight and he quickened. He probably benefited from having that run three weeks ago
>
> *– Jockey Tom Garner, about Awakened*

Ark (Ire) Redicean (GB), West Newton (GB) and Theocrat (Ire).

In the Sheppard, Awakened and Tom Garner saved ground in a crowded field of 10 led by West Newton, highweight Noah And The Ark and Jimmy P early. Sixth with three-eighths of a mile to go, Awakened went after Jimmy P and McTigue in the stretch and prevailed by a length. Aqueduct hero Merry Maker was fourth as novices swept the first five placings.

Garner wasn't thrilled with the race's early stages.

"My plan was to jump off handy," Garner said. "I got a little bit muscled back at the start which is not like me because I do like to think I'm a bit sharper than that. I wanted to be handy. I had to play the cards I was dealt and I sat, sat, sat and the horse traveled great, jumped great, I was a passenger for a while there."

Awakened was destined for Grade 1 races at Saratoga, just maybe not 2⅜-milers. Bred by Phipps Stable, the son of Curlin and multiple graded stakes winner Daydreaming goes back generations with the Phipps and Wheatley stables. He traces to *La Troienne, perhaps the broodmare of all broodmares, and is related to Grade 1 turf winner Imagining, influential stallion Not For Love, champions Numbered Account and Rhythm and Horse of the Year, champion and Hall of Famer Busher.

The $725,000 buy-back at Keeneland September won his 10th flat start for Phipps and trainer Reeve McGaughey at Ellis Park in July 2021 before being purchased as a steeplechase prospect. The new connections stayed patient and Awakened didn't run over jumps until the following spring. After three hurdle losses he won a flat race for jumpers at Colonial Downs and a maiden hurdle at Shawan Downs last September. This year, he was a solid third in a first-level allowance hurdle in April and won a similar race at Radnor in May before the Saratoga tries.

"I'd have been happy with his run if he'd been a good second, but he quickened and once he hit that top gear, he felt like he could have gone another half-mile," said Garner.

"What a lovely horse. I got the splits when I needed to and I pressed every button going up the straight and he quickened. He probably benefited from having that run three weeks ago."

■ While weather kept Saratoga jump races in check, Virginia's Colonial Downs stayed mainly on schedule – carding 17 races including one on the flat for horses who started in a jump race at the meet.

Irv Naylor's Bercasa (Ire) landed the biggest prize when she captured the $100,000 Life's Illusion Stakes for filly/mare hurdlers. Trained by Kathy Neilson, the 8-year-old daughter of Casamento is in the midst of a career resurgence of sorts. The three-time winner in Ireland lost her first three American starts (two in 2019, one in 2021), had a foal by Madefromlucky in 2022 and has won two of three (both stakes) while putting up $97,500 this year.

Six-year-old Will Take Charge gelding Abaan won a maiden hurdle at Colonial Sept. 8 in what would otherwise be a footnote except for his flat form which includes a Grade 3 win, a Grade 2-placing and $440,090 in earnings and owners Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Daigneault Thoroughbreds. The chestnut moved to Bernie and Kate Dalton in South Carolina, learned to jump and was second in his hurdle debut Aug. 11 before the 7¼-length win.

Trainer Mark Beecher and owner Dan Baker won a 4-year-old maiden hurdle with Aftermath Aug. 18. Beecher claimed the Arrogate gelding for $5,000 at Laurel Park last November.

Veteran Animal Kingston collected his fourth steeplechase win in a handicap hurdle at Colonial Aug. 18, catching lonely leader Ancient Times in the final yards to win by a half-length for trainer Neil Morris and owner Will Russell.

NOTES: Through Sept. 29, National Steeplechase leaders included **Irv Naylor** atop the owners' standings with 10 wins and $494,300. Riverdee Stable was second with eight and $320,500 . . . **Leslie Young** made her spring lead stand up with 22 wins, followed by Jack Fisher with 12 and Arch Kingsley with eight . . . The jockeys' race included **Harrison Beswick** (12 wins), Graham Watters (10) and Barry Foley (eight) at the top, though Foley was out with an injury . . . The fall schedule was once again topped by **Far Hills** ($675,000 in purses) Oct. 21 and the **International Gold Cup** ($325,000) a week later. Far Hills planned to be part of the Racing Across America television broadcast on the FoxSports networks . . . Virginia's **Montpelier Hunt Races** continued to add to its program with $225,000 in purses, this year headlined by a $75,000 stakes over the natural brush course and a $50,000 filly/mare stakes. ■

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The Steeplechase Times

The Last Jump

AFTER 29 YEARS IN SADDLE, GERAGHTY RETIRES

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photograph by Tod Marks*

In the end, the cons outweighed the pros and Ross Geraghty closed the gate on his career as a steeplechase jockey.

"The only pro was I was going to win a maiden hurdle somewhere," Geraghty said in early September. "The cons were limitless."

He didn't make a list, not for publication anyway, but those cons are clear to anyone who knows jump racing – or any racing – and include potential injury, travel demands, weight-watching, dwindling opportunities and so on.

Geraghty rode his first jump race at Ireland's Dundalk Racecourse Sept. 15, 1994. He rode his last a week shy of 29 years later when fourth in a 2-mile turf race for steeplechase horses at Colonial Downs Sept. 8. Now 46, he rode for 15 years in Ireland and England before coming to the United States to ride for trainer Tom Voss in 2009 at the suggestion of fellow Irish jockey Peter Buchanan.

"Peter had spent that summer riding for Tom at Saratoga, and suggested it to me when he came home," Geraghty said. "Peter called me on a Saturday evening, and I landed here on the Wednesday morning."

On their first day of racing together, Geraghty and Voss teamed up for two wins and two seconds at Monmouth Park. By the end of the season two months later, Geraghty had won six jump races – topped by a pair of Grade 1 triumphs at the Far Hills Races – from just 31 rides. Geraghty went back home for the winter, but returned the following spring and added more chapters to a career he started on the other side of the Atlantic.

"I'd been riding a long time and you fall out of fashion very easily," Geraghty said of a jump jockey's life in Ireland and England. "There's always someone younger, someone better coming along. It was just at a point where it was stagnant. The economy wasn't good, the riding opportunities were less. All my friends had traveled – Australia, here, somewhere. I went straight from school into racing. I always wanted to come to this country. It was a way to see it, see what the racing was like. It became something of, 'Why not give it a try and see a part of the world and see what happens?' "

Geraghty rode for 16 seasons before he arrived in the U.S. Reliable statistics are difficult to find, but Geraghty won 67 races under rules starting with the 2000 season according to Horse Racing Ireland and the jockey estimated the figure at a little more than 100 counting the years prior and point-to-point victories. Regardless, he came to the U.S. with plenty of experience and rode for 15 more seasons. He won 115 jump races (plus 10 more on the flat), earned the 2012 National Steeplechase Association jockeys' championships by races won and earnings, and led the circuit by earnings again in 2018.

The success shouldn't surprise anyone. Geraghty grew up near Fairyhouse Racecourse in County Meath, the oldest of Tucker and Bea Geraghty's six children. Ponies, horses, racing were always part of life. The Geraghtys prepped and sold 2013 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Bobs Worth (Ire) among other connections to the big time. Further back, Ross' grandfather Laurence Geraghty bred the legendary Golden Miller (Ire). He won five Cheltenham Gold Cups in the 1930s and is the only horse to win the Gold Cup and English Grand National in the same year.

Ross and brothers Norman and Barry schooled horses and rode work as children; their sisters Sascha, Jill and Holly

did too. Ross weighed 85 pounds as a 15-year-old, rode out for top trainer Noel Meade and nearly became a flat jockey before taking out an amateur license and riding bumpers and point-to-points to start. Bigger than his older brother, Norman rode plenty but became a farrier. Youngest brother Barry turned all that background into a career with few peers. In 24 seasons before retiring in 2020, he won 1,920 races in England and Ireland, two Irish championships and 43 races at the Cheltenham Festival.

Don't forget the Geraghty sisters – all three rode races of one form or another. "My mother had five kids riding in four different countries one day – England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and America. Now that we're all retired, it's a relief to her."

The American move worked for Ross – who lives in Monkton, Md., with wife Augusta "Ta" and stepchildren Fin and Maddie – even if real success came slowly after the solid start. He won three races in 2010 and made a seven-win season count in 2011 as the jockey of Eclipse Award winner Black Jack Blues (Ire). The Irv Naylor colorbearer and Geraghty teamed up to win two late-season stakes, topped by the Grand National at Far Hills. In 2012, Geraghty won 17 races and the season championship – winning major races with Black Jack Blues and Via Galilei (Ire).

"He was a cool horse to ride," Geraghty said of Black Jack Blues, who won all three American starts before being injured and retired. "He went from the front end, but he didn't have to. Once he hit his speed, he would keep going. He wanted to do it."

In 2015, Geraghty teamed up with Dawalan (Fr) to win a third Grand National and Colonial Cup en route to the Eclipse Award. Geraghty called the Colonial Cup, a 5¼-length win over stablemate and eventual 2016 champion Rawnaq (Ire) and 2014 champion Demonstrative, "a proper race" on a horse who wasn't easy to ride.

"He had no interest down the backside, was just going through the motions, and I just thought if I could get him to pass one horse maybe I could get him running," Geraghty said. "There was a soft spot near some trees and the others hit it and kind of idled, he went through it, passed a horse and traveled to the third-last, running away with me, I just held on to him and let him coil up and just released him. He won it pretty easy in the end. That was just him. You had to play mind games with him."

In 2017, Geraghty teamed up with Zanjabeel (GB) for a late-season novice stakes win at Callaway Gardens. They were even better the following season, winning the Grade 1 Calvin Houghland Iroquois in May and the Grade 1 Lonesome

"Over the years there was always some good horse to look forward to. I didn't have that. I was riding a lot of maidens. They were nice maidens, they jumped well, but they were inexperienced."

– Ross Geraghty

Glory in September to become the jockey's third Eclipse Award winner. Geraghty compared him to Dawalan.

"Whatever he'd do on the first turn, he'd want to do it the second turn, you just had to wait on him," Geraghty said. "At Callaway he didn't want to run down the hill, but he ran up it. At the Iroquois, he didn't want to go up the hill the first time. The second time, I gave him a smack and committed him to go up the hill. He went up the hill and kept going."

Trained by Ricky Hendriks, Zanjabeel won by 5 lengths over the Bob Kinsley-owned Modem (GB). The trek to Nashville, and back, for the Iroquois will always be a career moment for Geraghty.

"The races had been delayed and I was going to miss my flight home," he said. "I didn't really care. I got to the barn and asked Bob Kinsley if there was any room on his plane. I'd just beaten his horse in a Grade 1. He said, 'Give me 10 minutes.' He came back and he said, 'On one condition, you serve the drinks on the way home.' No problem. That was a really kind thing of Bob Kinsley to do."

In all, Geraghty won eight unrestricted Grade 1 jump races in the United States – each one on the schedule during his time except the A.P. Smithwick Memorial at Saratoga – and a ninth Grade 1 counting the Foxbrook for novice hurdlers at Far Hills in 2009. He rode winners for Hall of Fame trainers Voss, Jonathan Sheppard, Janet Elliot and Jack Fisher, but singled out smaller stables trained by Todd Wyatt, Jazz Napravnik, Danielle Hodsdon, Julie Gomena, Cyril Murphy, Ricky Hendriks, Arch Kingsley and others. Three of the nine Grade 1 wins, and a slew of others, came for owners Irv and Diane Naylor.

"I tried to add it up and I think I rode 35 winners for the Naylors," said Geraghty. "They were big, big supporters of mine over the years and that meant a lot to me."

Like plenty before him, Geraghty didn't maintain the career peak and his statistics dropped off starting with the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. He rode one winner (from 43 rides) that year and two (from 25) in 2021. He was winless in 2022, another 25-mount season, but managed 13 seconds and thirds. This year's report included just 15 mounts and zero wins.

"I was still enjoying the riding, still having fun, it wasn't like my nerve was gone, it just came to a point where it was, 'Why stay going?' " he said. "Over the years there was always some good horse to look forward to. I didn't have that. I was riding a lot of maidens. They were nice maidens, they jumped well, but they were inexperienced.

"I didn't know the opposition as well as I did. When you're riding full-time, you know every horse. You know what their strengths and weaknesses are, you know how to play against them. I didn't know them as well and you can't take advantage of it. I'd watch all the races but it's different. You don't get the perspective you get when you're sitting on them or next to them in a race."

Geraghty hoped for one final jump mount at Colonial in September, but Westerland (GB) went to the sidelines. Hold Hard (Ire) provided the final spin from the barn of trainer Doug Fout. They finished eighth after vying for the early lead.

Geraghty will miss riding races, and the relationships with his peers, owners and trainers.

"I guess I'll miss the camaraderie in the jocks' room the most," he said. "At Colonial, Parker [Hendriks], myself, Bernie [Dalton] and Richard Boucher were joking about it. I asked, 'What do I do now? What am I going to miss?' They all said I'll miss the craic in this room, but that's about it. They're probably right. I will miss that. And the horses. Horses and this sport brought me all over the world. I'll remember the lovely horses I rode and all the friends I made." ■

Geraghty's Grade 1 Wins

Year	Race	Horse
2009	Grand National	Your Sum Man
2009	Foxbrook	Left Unsaid
2011	Grand National	Black Jack Blues
2015	Grand National	Dawalan
2015	Colonial Cup	Dawalan
2016	Colonial Cup	Top Striker
2018	Iroquois	Zanjabeel
2018	N.Y. Turf Writers	Optimus Prime
2019	Lonesome Glory	Surprising Soul

— In Memoriam —

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Ben Perkins Sr.

A fixture as a trainer on the New Jersey racing circuit whose 854 career winners included Haskell Invitational-G1 winner Five Star Flight, Ben Perkins Sr. died Aug. 30. He was 89.

The New Jersey native worked as an exercise rider as a teenager and took out his trainer's license in 1958. He was also a jockey's agent, buyer/seller and judged the Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show in 2005. He trained at Garden State Park, Atlantic City Race Course, the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park, but was active throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Florida – enjoying a long, successful relationship with Everett "Ebby" Novak's New Farm – before retiring in 1999.

Sort of.

"No, I'm not retiring," he told *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* that summer. "I'm just going to take life a little easier and pursue a few other activities. I'll be buying some yearlings and I'll break and develop them, and sell them as 2-year-olds. . . I'll be managing some of the breeding activities of the New Farm horses. It will be a long time before you see me in a rocking chair, if ever."

He worked well into his 80s, after a training career with 11 graded stakes winners, with Five Star Flight winning the 1981 Haskell over champion Lord Avie. Conveyor was Perkins' other Grade 1 winner, capturing the 1994 Meadowlands Cup. Perkins' horses earned more than $13 million. Other stars included Grade 2 winners Appealing Skier, who won eight races and earned $579,610, and Meadow Monster, who won 11 (six stakes) and earned $496,916. In 1995, Perkins spent $57,000 to buy Forest Wildcat for New Farm at the Israel Cohen dispersal and the son of Storm Cat rewarded his new connections with five wins in seven starts and $429,126 earned in 1996.

Perkins' son Ben Jr. is active as a trainer, with 1,545 career victories through Sept. 17 and more than $45 million in earnings thanks to horses such as Grade 1 winners Delaware Township, Storm Tower, Stormy Pick, Wildcat Heir (by Forest Wildcat), millionaire Wild Gams (also by Forest Wildcat) and others. In addition, trainer Kelly Breen worked for Perkins Sr. before building a career that includes 1,025 career wins through Sept. 17, in excess of $47 million in earnings and a Belmont Stakes-G1 win with Ruler On Ice.

Monmouth Park honored Perkins with the Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award, the track's most prestigious honor, in 2007.

In addition to his son, Perkins is survived by his wife, Geraldine; daughter Pinky, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jonathan Sheppard

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, who rewrote the history of American steeplechasing, trained champions on the flat and over fences and was inducted into racing's national Hall of Fame, died Aug. 27. He was 82.

The British-born horseman had retired from training after the 2020 season with records that may stand forever. His 1,242 victories beginning in 1966 lead all trainers and his horses earned a record $24.9 million.

He was the steeplechase sport's leading trainer by wins a record 26 times, and he led the earnings table 29 times, also a record. His first training title came in 1970, and the last in 2020, the pandemic-shortened season that concluded his training career.

Two Sheppard trainees earned spots in racing's Hall of Fame – steeplechase champions Cafe Prince and Flatterer. Sheppard purchased the former for Augustin Stable as a yearling in 1971 and bred the latter (a four-time champion) in Pennsylvania before racing him in partnership with co-breeder Bill Pape and George Harris.

Over fences and on the flat, Sheppard won 3,426 races and his horses earned $88.7 million according to Equibase records. Sheppard trained 11 individual Eclipse Award winners. In addition to Flatterer (1983-86) and Cafe Prince (1977 and 1978), the steeplechase champions were Athenian Idol (1973), Martie's Anger (1979), Jimmy Lorenzo (GB) (1988), Highland Bud (1989), Mixed Up (2009), Divine Fortune (2013) and Winston C (Ire) (2019).

Far earlier, Sheppard won a Maryland Hunt Cup with Haffaday in 1968.

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Sheppard also amassed a broodmare band on the farm in Pennsylvania and bred dozens of winners.

Beyond jump racing, Sheppard trained 2008 female turf champion Forever Together and 2009 female sprint champion Informed Decision. Sheppard trained Storm Cat, who finished first or second in all six starts as a 2-year-old in 1985 including a win in the Young America Stakes-G1 and a nose defeat in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 before going on to a long career as a leading stallion. Grade 1 winner With Anticipation is part of a long list of other Sheppard flat stars including Rochester, Just as Well, Alice Springs, Crowd Pleaser, Cloudy's Knight, Ratings and others. Earlier, regional standouts Mo Bay and Northern Fling paved the way for Sheppard's flat success in the 1970s.

"Every horse is a project, and you feel you have to put something of yourself into it," he said while trying to explain his training methods in 2008. "The horses run the race, but you feel like you're putting your skills on the line when they run. It's a very competitive business and you want to do well."

Born in England, Sheppard was the son of British racing official Dan Sheppard and was therefore restricted from training for outside clients. He worked with a few point-to-pointers of his own and worked in the family's brokerage firm Sheppards and Co. for a time. In 1961, he came to the United States via cargo ship and stayed with some cousins in Connecticut. He got a job riding foxhunters with the Griswold family in Maryland and met future Hall of Fame trainers Mikey Smithwick and Sidney Watters Jr. Next came a job with Burley Cocks, another future Hall of Famer, in Pennsylvania and a few steeplechase rides as an amateur jockey in 1962. Sheppard went back to England and the office job, briefly, but returned (by airplane) and worked for Cocks and trainer Joe Nash before officially becoming a trainer in 1966.

Haffaday provided the first winner at My Lady's Manor that spring, and Sheppard was on his way – a Maryland Hunt Cup win and 13 other victories in 1968; a first National Steeplechase Association training championship in 1970; the Cafe Prince yearling sale in 1971; and a run of excellence with few peers in American Thoroughbred racing.

The year after his retirement, the New York Racing Association and National Steeplechase Association renamed the Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase stakes the Jonathan Sheppard. He won the race 15 times – the first in 1979 with Leaping Frog and the last in 2019 with Winston C. Pressed to name a favorite winner of the Saratoga Race Course stakes before its first running in 2021, he settled on Flatterer.

"He was a great horse and I co-owned and bred him so that added to it," Sheppard said of the 1984 winner. "He had to do it the hard way, carrying weight and as the favorite most of the time. He had a tremendous record, and to have bred him made it extra special. He was able to win the long-distance races we had like the Colonial Cup [2¾ miles], and was quick enough to win at Saratoga too."

In addition to his wife Cathy, survivors include three children from previous marriages.

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Two Legends, Two Eras

Popular horses Ben's Cat, Mountain Dew join the Maryland-bred Hall of Fame

By Cindy Deubler

Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame inductees Ben's Cat (left) and Mountain Dew, legends in their own times, were both owned and trained by their respective breeders.

How much can one horse mean to a person? Just listen to the connections of Ben's Cat and Mountain Dew, the 2023 Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame inductees.

A celebration took place Sept. 2 to officially induct the two Maryland legends during the Timonium races at the Maryland State Fair. Never in the 11-year history of the inductions has there been a larger crowd of family and friends. The ceremony photos were taken on the track, as the winner's circle could not contain everyone.

During a luncheon for the connections, King T. Leatherbury–breeder, owner and trainer of Ben's Cat–was greeted constantly by well-wishers. While the 90-year-old Hall of Fame trainer was on camera between races for an interview with The Racing Biz's Frank Vespe, one of the Timonium meet's on-air track handicappers and analysts, he relived what he considered Ben's Cat's best race, the 2016 Jim McKay Turf Sprint Stakes on Preakness Day. Winning it at age 10 for the fifth time, it was the 32nd and final victory of Ben's Cat's career.

"The last race he won was a remarkable thing," Leather-

The Hall of Fame inductees attracted plenty of family and friends to the ceremony at Timonium.

bury told Vespe. "It didn't look like he could win it and on the turn two horses were substantially ahead of him and they didn't look like they were tiring.

"Trevor McCarthy was on him, and when they came into the stretch, he started to make up some ground, but he didn't look like he was going to win. I was saying to myself 'Hold on for third, at least I'd get third money' – because every little bit counts.

"Sure enough here he comes. And McCarthy elected to split them. Which was dangerous to go through that. . . because he could get shut off. But he got through and won by a nose and the crowd was with him 100 percent. He came into the winner's circle and people were screaming and hollering and I get more congratuations on that win than any other I think. It gave chills to me."

One of the most celebrated and beloved runners to compete in Maryland, Ben's Cat became a local legend and a national treasure.

"He would get an applause coming over from the barn," said Leatherbury. "That was really something."

The nearly black gelding raced eight seasons through age 11, and Leatherbury credits him with providing the final push for the trainer's induction into Racing's National Hall of Fame in 2015. Ben's Cat was voted into the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

"It was a matter of time and I knew he'd get there sooner or later–a magnificent horse like him, but I was proud of [the honor] and proud of him," said Leatherbury.

Ben's Cat owns a Maryland-bred record (on the flat) 26 stakes wins, became the all-time leader by state-bred championship titles, 17 in all, including four consecutive for Horse of the Year, and earned $2,643,782. He won four graded stakes and marked a rare feat when winning the Mister Diz Stakes six times. And in a record vote, he received the 2017 Secretariat Vox Populi Award. Retired in June 2017 to a farm in Kentucky, he died from colic surgery complications less than a month later. His ashes were returned to Maryland and buried during a ceremony that November at his home track of Laurel, next to the paddock.

Mountain Dew–bred, owned and trained by Janon Fisher Jr.–provided a lifetime of memories for the Fisher family. In attendance for the celebration was Mountain Dew's rider Janon Fisher III, now 89, and 91-year-old Julie Colhoun, Fisher's sister who rode the timber champion first over jumps as a fox hunter. They were joined by more than two dozen family and close friends who popped in throughout the afternoon. Colhoun commented on the outpouring: "I think people like to support a local-held horse. He had quite a bit of respect from the community."

Colhoun shared the story of how Mountain Dew got his very first win at Timonium, although it was the show ring when, as a yearling in 1956, he was pinned grand champion of the Maryland State Fair Thoroughbred show. The rest of his career was spent over the fields and fences a few miles from the track.

With Fisher in the irons, Mountain Dew won three Maryland Hunt Cups (1962, 1965 and 1967), was second in the race to National Museum of Racing Hall of Famer Jay Trump three times (1963, 1964 and 1966), and third once, in his 1961 Hunt Cup debut. He was leading at the 19th of 22 fences when trying to win a record fourth Hunt Cup in 1968 when he was injured and pulled up. He holds the record of winning six Maryland Grand Nationals in eight starts and placing in the other two, and in 24 sanctioned timber starts he never fell while finishing in the top three 20 times. Said Fisher of the timber great: "He carried me around well. I was a passenger."

Colhoun added a side note about two of Mountain Dew's runs at My Lady's Manor, losses due to rider error.

"They say he never won at the Manor, which is true, but the trouble is one time–I was standing right there by the fence–he jumped the wrong fence. And the next time he cut a beacon heading into the home stretch while winning, and was disqualified.

"We find these jockeys always make mistakes eventually, including my brother," she laughed.

"My father was one of not too many words," she added. "He never criticized. We worked really hard for him but he was never critical. He didn't care about winning at the Manor–he wanted to win the Maryland Hunt Cup."

During an interview between races, Colhoun remembered her early rides on Mountain Dew after he recovered from a tendon injury suffered in his only flat start at 3.

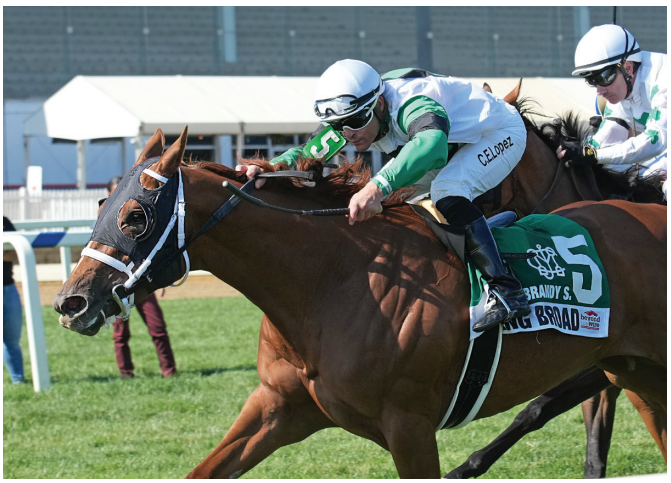
"As usual, the ones who couldn't run again were made into hunters," she said. "I luckily got the job of riding him first and he was only 4 years old when he

started to fox hunt. When I went into a fence on him, you couldn't believe what he could do. He never wanted to touch a fence and he never fell and he took care of us for years and years."

In sanctioned races, Colhoun once calculated Mountain Dew covered approximately 114 miles and jumped 640 fences. Not counted were the many times he ran, and won, at the non-sanctioned meets that kicked off his season at the Howard County Hunt Cup and the Edward S. Voss at Elkridge-Harford. Or all the years of fox hunting, which he continued to do through age 18. When he died at 24 in 1979, he was buried on the farm of Kitty Jenkins, sister to Janon and Julie, a mile from the Hunt Cup course.

Visit the Maryland Thoroughbred Hall of Fame website for biographies, photos, complete race records and more on all 33 Maryland-breds of distinction in the Hall of Fame. ❧

Maryland Fund Stakes Recaps



Jerry Dzierwinski

Gold Digging Broad

All Brandy Stakes
$75,000-guaranteed, 1⅛ mi., turf., registered Maryland-bred or sired fillies and mares, 3 & up.
Laurel Park, Aug. 19.

Ch.f., 2020, Mineshaft—Brushed by Love, by Not For Love. Bred by LRM Stable; owned by Jean Mahoney; trained by Miguel Vera. Foaled at Dance Forth Farm, Chestertown, Md.

		Lifetime			
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*	
10	2 (1)	1	2	$96,430	(through Aug. 19)

2023: 1st $75,000 **All Brandy S,** 1⅛ mi., turf, registered Md.-bred or sired fillies and mares, 3 & up, Laurel, Aug. 19.

Gold Digging Broad picked up her first stakes win in the All Brandy at Laurel Park Aug. 19 via disqualification. A 3-year-old filly taking on older mares on the turf, the daughter of Mineshaft went off at 21-1 in the field of nine–a sole maiden win from nine outings to her credit.

Tom Quinn, who bred her under the name of LRM Stable (the initials for wife Lisa, son Russell and daughter Melissa), had wanted to try the filly on the turf all along, but lost her in her fifth start March 5 at Laurel to trainer Miguel Vera, who claimed her for $12,500. In five outings since, all on the turf, she has two wins and two thirds for owner Jean Mahoney.

"It was just a question do we wait and try her on the turf or do we drop her down a little bit in performance, and we decided to do it," said Quinn about losing her during the winter. "It happens, it's all part of it."

Gold Digging Broad made her first start last November for her breeders at Laurel going 7 furlongs on the main track with trainer Mike Trombetta and finished fifth. "She just didn't like [the dirt]," said Quinn. Her best main track finish was a second on the day she was claimed.

Starting in a stakes race was a big jump from maiden winner in June, to a sixth in an allowance in July (beaten 5¼ lengths).

Hustled out of the gate by Carlos Lopez, Gold Digging Broad set moderate fractions, lost the lead at the top of the stretch to Thegirlfromireland, fought back to regain the lead and was caught by 5-year-old Downtown Katie in the final strides, losing by a nose while stopping the clock in 1:42.80 for 1⅛ miles. However Downtown Katie had crowded Amplio Esquema along the rail in midstretch and was subsequently taken down.

"It was a nervous five minutes waiting for the decision," said Quinn.

Gold Digging Broad is out of the Not For Love mare Brushed by Love, purchased by lifelong Marylanders Tom and his brother Bill Quinn out of the 2009 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale on the advice of Josh Pons of Country Life Farm.

"[Bill and I] went to the yearling sale just to get the experience and we thought some day we might buy one," Tom said. "We relied on Josh Pons' advice–he's wonderful."

Tom was in Germany on the day the Not For Love filly went into the ring. Bill however was sitting with Pons. "A funny story my wife always tells," said Quinn, "is Josh Pons is the only person in the world who got the Quinn brothers to go over budget." While at the sale, Pons encouraged Bill, "You should do a little more, a little more, you won't be sorry." The hammer fell at $21,000.

Two years later Brushed by Love, racing for Nona Lisa Stable (named for Bill's wife Nona and Tom's wife Lisa) won the Maryland Million Oaks, trained by Trombetta. "My brother followed his advice and we got Brushed by Love and it's been a terrific experience for the family."

Tragically, Bill Quinn wasn't able to witness it. "Unfortunately, right after [the yearling sale], he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and passed away before he ever got to see her run," said Quinn.

Gold Digging Broad is the fifth live foal out of Brushed by Love, whom the Quinns have shared breeding rights with Larry Johnson. Three of the foals the mare produced for the Quinns died well before a year old.

Two of the mare's retired foals–her first, unraced 9-year-old mare Love At Last, and the winning 5-year-old gelding King Alan–reside at Foxie G. Foundation in Union Bridge. The Quinns are board members for the foundation and volunteer on a regular basis, and sponsor their retirees along with a couple of others.

Brushed by Love produced a filly by Street Magician for Johnson last year and wasn't bred back. The Quinns are deciding whether to bred her again; in the meantime she's

a resident at Summer Wind Farm, the location of Foxie G.

"We've really just been a one-horse stable in either breeding or racing," said Quinn. "We're as small a 'small time stable' as you can get."

Field Pass

Find Stakes
$75,000-guaranteed, 1⅛ mi., turf, registered Maryland-bred or sired, 3 & up. Laurel Park, Aug. 19.

Gr./ro.h., 2017, Lemon Drop Kid—Only Me, by Runaway Groom. Bred by Mark Grier; owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Mike Maker. Foaled at Dance Forth at Roland, Warwick, Md.

Lifetime				
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
35	10 (9)	3 (2)	5 (3)	$1,239,021 (through Aug. 19)

2019: 2nd **With Anticipation S-G3**. **2020:** 1st $100,000 **Dania Beach S**, 1 mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Gulfstream, Feb. 1; $200,000 **Jeff Ruby S-G3**, 1⅛ mi., synthetic, 3-year-olds, Turfway, March 14; $100,000 **Audubon S**, 1⅛ mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Churchill, June 20; $100,000 **Transylvania S-G3**, 1⅛ mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Keeneland, July 12; $125,000 **Ontario Derby-G3**, 1⅛ mi., 3-year-olds, Woodbine, Nov. 21; 3rd **American Turf S-G2, Twilight Derby-G2, War Chant S**. **2021:** 1st $200,000 **Baltimore/Washington International Turf Cup S-G3**, 1 mi., turf, 3 & up, Pimlico, July 24; $250,000 **Seabiscuit H-G2**, 1⅛ mi., turf, 3 & up, Del Mar, Nov. 27; 2nd **Knickerbocker S-G3**. **2022:** 1st $300,000 **Texas Turf Classic S**, 1⅛ mi., turf, 3 & up, Lone Star, July 16; 3rd **Arlington S-G3, Henry S. Clark S**. **2023:** 1st $75,000 **Find S**, 1⅛ mi., turf, registered Md.-bred or sired, 3 & up, Laurel, Aug. 19.

Millionaire and three-time Maryland-bred champion Field Pass called on all his class to prevail by a neck in the Find Stakes Aug. 19 at Laurel Park.

Recording his first win in more than a year, the 6-year-old gray son of Lemon Drop Kid was making his first start against Maryland-breds. He has raced coast-to-coast, north and south, in his 35-start career. He broke his maiden in his second start at 2 at Saratoga and won stakes at Gulfstream, Turfway, Churchill Downs, Woodbine, Pimlico, Del Mar, Lone Star and now Laurel. The Find marked his fourth outing in his home state.

The 4-1 third choice in the nine had to steady off heels heading into the first turn of the 1⅛-mile contest held on a firm turf course. Farther back than his custom, Field Pass galloped strongly while in the clear mid-pack down the backstretch, had to make a wide move around the far turn and was in a drive to catch Crabs N Bear near the wire while covering the distance in 1:41.70.

JIM MCCUE

Winning for the 10th time in his career, he pushed his earnings to $1,239,021 and now sits 16th on the all-time Maryland-bred leading money earners list.

The Maryland-bred champion turf horse the past two years and champion male at 3, Field Pass was bred by Mark Grier and is trained by Mike Maker for owner Three Diamonds Farm. He is out of the Runaway Groom mare Only Me, an eight-time winner. Only Me produced one other named foal before being retired from breeding. The year-older You Must Chill (Winchill) is a 12-time winner who recorded his second career stakes victory in the Lebanon Valley at Penn National less than 24 hours before the Find, boosting his earnings to $549,772.

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

What's happening at the library

On the calendar at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center in Reisterstown this fall:

Friday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m.—Maryland Horse Foundation Sip & Win & Live Auction

A cocktail reception with proceeds benefiting the Maryland Horse Foundation.

Monday, Oct. 23, 4 p.m.—Before the Breeders' Cup, the Washington, D.C., International

International racing at its best didn't begin with the Breeders' Cup. The first major event in the U.S. was the brainchild of Marylander John D. Schapiro, who took over the reins as Laurel's president in 1950 and created a race designed to bring together the world's best horses at 1½ miles on the grass. He named it the Washington, D.C., International. Learn more about the history of the racing visionary when his step-son, Joseph Davies, comes to the library for a talk.

Monday, Nov. 6, 4 p.m.—Author Talk with Patrick Smithwick

Marylander Patrick Smithwick has been working with horses all of his life, getting life lessons at a young age from his father, legendary steeplechase jockey turned-trainer A.P. Smithwick. He has since developed another passion, writing, and pens what he knows, growing up with a racing legend in *Racing My Father* to a memoir about a year with his family in *Flying Change*, his first two published works. His most recent book, *War's Over, Come Home* is another chapter in the life of his family.

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 5:30 p.m.—Equine Nutrition Seminar

A Howard & Sondra Bender Educational Series event. Videos of prior educational events may be found at marylandhorse.com/howard-sondra-bender-educational-series/

Friday, Dec. 15, noon—Holiday Open House

Visit marylandhorse.com for more information on these and other upcoming events.

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run in June 2023
at Maryland tracks

Maryland-bred top earners in 2023

(through July 31)

1. Award Wanted	$202,500	11. It's Viper	$125,930
2. Liquidator	201,270	12. Bosserati	125,900
3. Response Time	189,940	13. Super Accelerate	124,620
4. Eastern Bay	177,675	14. All Threes	124,310
5. Al Loves Josie	174,343	15. My Flicker	121,063
6. Holy Synchronicity	149,220	16. Mit Mazel	120,620
7. Princess Kokachin	146,910	17. Fuhgeddaboudit	119,120
8. Berks	142,570	18. Dancing Sophia	115,150
9. I'm Gittin There	135,170	19. Dulce Kiara	113,760
10. Coffeewithchris	134,750	20. Clubman	112,090

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Boss Man J J: June 9, 7th race, $1,080. Food Foodie: June 3, 1st race, $787.50. I Have Courage: June 18, 2nd race, $517.50. Winked: June 2, 6th race, $2,430. ($4,815)

Barak Farm—Fivecommatwo: June 23, 9th race, $1,215. Lady Mosler: June 9, 1st race, $1,575. She Is Wisky: June 11, 4th race, $6,480. ($9,270)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Alottacents: June 3, 1st race, $1,575. Trash Talkin Larry: June 4, 8th race, $990. ($2,565)

John Bashore and Albert Klerlein—Kellan: June 25, 2nd race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

David Baxter Sr.—Miss Casey: June 24, 3rd race, $585.

Bell Gable Stable—Hop and Scotch: June 11, 2nd race, $3,105. Willful Desire: June 25, 3rd race, $4,860. ($7,965)

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Imagine It All: June 24, 4th race, $787.50. Seville Row: June 24, 10th race, $630. The Last Scip: June 24, 10th race, $3,780. ($5,197.50)

Bonita Farm and Partners—Sigmund: June 23, 1st race, $3,240/$1,080. ($4,320)

Phyllis M. Browne—Golden Heart: June 10, 6th race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Jerome C. Burdick—Tea Rose: June 4, 6th race, $1,170.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Chelichna: June 3, 8th race, $2,430.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Tanka Tough: June 23, 3rd race, $1,620.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Brooke Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—By the Sey Shore: June 9, 7th race, $6,480.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: June 9, 6th race, $1,800.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Nami: June 17, 3rd race, $810. Shady Munni: June 9, 2nd race, $3,510. ($4,320)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Auntie Rona: June 2, 5th race, $1,215. Dry Well: June 23, 6th race, $1,305. ($2,520)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Skeedattle Associates—Cynergy's Star: June 17, 7th race, $1,305.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Don't Tell Deren: June 17, 1st race, $3,780. Super Accelerate: June 16, 1st race, $7,020. ($10,800)

Kim and Kelly Campbell—Inspired Irish: June 2, 8th race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: June 10, 2nd race, $3,240.

CandyLand Farm—Flaming East: June 3, 3rd race, $765.

Classic Thoroughbred XXV—Moonset: June 9, 4th race, $1,125.

Susan S. Cooney—Meliponini Bee: June 16, 2nd race, $967.50.

Cordelia Stables LLC—Imagine Victory: June 4, 2nd race, $810.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: June 9, 2nd race, $1,170. Response Time: June 2, 7th race, $3,150. ($4,320)

Country Life Farm and Broken Trust Fund LLC—Wicked Prankster: June 18, 6th race, $1,305.

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Liquidator: June 10, 3rd race, $7,290.

Country Life Farm and Moonlit Malibu LLC—Esperannna: June 10, 7th race, $1,080.

Country Life Farm and Rue de Rivoli LLC—Next Episode: June 10, 4th race, $2,160.

Country Life Farm and Sister State LLC—Lady Ensign: June 10, 6th race, $990.

Country Life Farm and Winding Creek Farm—Luv Ya Bye Bye: June 9, 4th race, $3,375/$1,125. ($4,500)

Country Roads Ltd.—Utterly Enchanting: June 10, 7th race, $2,160.

Crystal Park Stables Inc.—Brilliant Ice: June 11, 7th race, $2,430; June 24, 7th race, $1,215. ($3,645)

Dark Hollow Farm—Circle Home: June 10, 6th race, $1,980. Haleigh B: June 10, 7th race, $6,480. Maryland Moon: June 17, 6th race, $990. Oxide: June 18, 9th race, $2,430. ($11,880)

George L. Doetsch—Goldrush Hottie: June 2, 3rd race, $1,170.

Elevate Equine LLC, DDRS and Ron Cuneo—Patriotic Party: June 17, 2nd race, $1,080.

Annette Eubanks—Lookin for Justice: June 24, 10th race, $1,260.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—Rock the Boat: June 24, 8th race, $1,305.

Fitzhugh LLC—Espresso Lungo: June 11, 2nd race, $1,035.

Flying H Stables LLC—Peace Fire: June 23, 3rd race, $810.

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid Daydream: June 16, 8th race, $2,790.

Glenangus Farm LLC—Grand Manner: June 11, 2nd race, $517.50. Riccio: June 17, 5th race, $1,080. ($1,597.50)

Fred A. Greene Jr., Deborah Greene and Hamilton Smith—Run Bucky Run: June 16, 1st race, $1,170.

Claudio Gonzalez—He's Pure Talent: June 17, 4th race, $4,860; $1,620. ($6,480)

Richard J. Hackerman—Krone: June 18, 5th race, $1,980.

Harry Kassap LLC—Samui Sunset: June 2, 2nd race, $1,440.

Hillwood Stable LLC—Hello Hot Rod: June 11, 5th race, $2,790.

Kyle Horlacher—Crabs N Beer: June 17, 5th race, $2,160.

Michael and Debbie Horning—Cut From Class: June 4, 6th race, $7,020.

Jagger Inc.—Berks: June 9, 6th race, $5,400. Speedyness: June 16, 3rd race, $7,020/$2,340. ($14,760)

R. Larry Johnson—Great Heavens: June 10, 5th race, $1,215. Quit Quay: June 17, 10th race, $1,620. Street Copper: June 24, 8th race, $2,610. Whenigettoheaven: June 11, 6th race, $1,215. ($6,660)

Carol A. Kaye—Air Token: June 23, 4th race, $1,800.

Timothy L. Keefe—Watch Me Disappear: June 10, 9th race, $3,375/$1,125; June 23, 9th race, $607.50. ($5,107.50)

Komlo LLC—Upsidedown Man: June 16, 9th race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

Joanne P. Krishack—Dr. Rusty Raymond: June 3, 3rd race, $2,295.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Holy Synchronicity: June 17, 7th race, $7,830. Mailman's a Flyer: June 23, 2nd race, $630. Never Grew Up: June 16, 3rd race, $2,340. ($10,800)

Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: June 3, 9th race, $1,170. Freeze the Fire: June 3, 9th race, $7,020/$2,340. ($10,530)

LRM Stable LLC—Gold Digging Broad: June 18, 5th race, $5,940.

Magic Carpet Racing—Buckin' Lucky: June 25, 2nd race, $990.

Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable—Good Story: June 10, 9th race, $1,125.

Maryland Mare Venture LLC—Ellie Victorina: June 18, 2nd race, $1,035.

Ann Warfield Merryman and Richard F. Blue Jr.—Gift of Gab: June 10, 4th race, $6,480.

Edmund T. Mudge IV—Amplio Esquema: June 11, 4th race, $1,080. Sorolla: June 3, 4th race, $1,575. ($2,655)

Murmur Farm—Golden Charm: June 4, 6th race, $2,340. June 16, 7th race, $1,980. ($4,320)

Nancy Lee Farms—Police Woman: June 10, 9th race, $562.50; June 17, 3rd race, $4,860. ($5,422.50)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Beautiful Gorgeous: June 18, 5th race, $990. Poggibonsi: June 17, 10th race, $4,860/$1,620. ($7,470)

Joel Politi—Bosserati: June 2, 6th race, $7,290; June 18, 8th race, $13,500. ($20,790)

Randy Ridgely and Gary Ridgely—Fun Notion: June 9, 3rd race, $5,940/$1,980. ($7,920)

Tim Ritchey and Janet Ritchey—Dancer's Melody: June 11, 8th race, $720; June 24, 3rd race, $3,510. ($4,230)

Timothy J. Rooney—B Determined: June 9, 7th race, $2,160. Gals Gal: June 11, 4th race, $2,160. Money's Worth: June 10, 4th race, $1,080. Thegirlfromireland: June 23, 7th race, $7,290. ($12,690)

Alexandro Rubim-Dias—Award Nominated: June 24, 7th race, $2,430.

Sagamore Farm, LLC—Youngest of Five: June 11, 5th race, $1,395.

Shamrock Farm—Albertano: June 4, 5th race, $3,510; June 24, 5th race, $585. ($4,095)

Janice Sinatra—Jackie A: June 11, 1st race, $900.

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: June 25, 4th race, $1,305.

Hamilton A. Smith—I'm Gittin There: June 4, 7th race, $1,305; June 23, 6th race, $2,610. ($3,915)

James Claude Smith Jr.—Princess Palmer: June 2, 4th race, $1,575.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Dulce Kiara: June 4, 7th race, $2,610; June 24, 3rd race, $1,170. Feeling Woozy: June 24, 9th race, $2,430. Goodafternoonoscar: June 10, 5th race, $2,430. Miss Antietam: June 25, 4th race, $3,915. Northern Glow: June 16, 7th race, $5,940. Sweet Gracie: June 4, 7th race, $7,830. ($26,325)

The Elkstone Group LLC—Cap Com: June 4, 3rd race, $5,940. The Addison Pour: June 17, 5th race, $6,480. Vax a Nation: June 17, 6th race, $5,940. ($18,360)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Act Lively: June 9, 9th race, $1,980. Admit Nothing: June 3, 5th race, $4,860; June 24, 9th race, $1,215. Forgotten Gift: June 17, 10th race, $810. Hialeah Native: June 18, 1st race, $810. Tall Order: June 9, 9th race, $5,940. Urban Bandit: June 2, 1st race, $585. Wish Me Home: June 4, 8th race, $5,940. ($22,140)

Two Legends Farm—Hazelmoor Beach: June 23, 3rd race, $4,860/$1,620. ($6,480)

Mary P. Voss—Zevon: June 16, 5th race, $1,170.

Susan Wantz—Black Diamond Rain: June 11, 3rd race, $900.

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Wells—Rascally Rebel: June 2, 1st race, $1,170.

Donald Clifford Wilson—Downtown Katie: June 23, 7th race, $1,215.

David W. Wright—Step Ahead: June 4, 1st race, $1,125; June 25, 10th race, $1,125. ($2,250)

Mrs. Frank P. Wright—Cannon's Roar: June 11, 1st race, $1,800.

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Fast Tracked: June 2, 5th race, $7,290.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Gals Gal: June 11, 4th race, $720): Robert Gerczak.

BANDBOX (Box N Ben: June 3, 9th race, $390. Dulce Kiara: June 4, 7th race, $870; June 24, 3rd race, $390. Forgotten Gift: June 17, 10th

race, $270. Sweet Gracie: June 4, 7th race, $2,610): Bandbox Syndicate—$4,530.

BARBADOS (Albertano: June 4, 5th race, $1,170; June 24, 5th race, $195): Shamrock Farm—$1,365.

BLOFELD (Crabs N Beer: June 17, 5th race, $720. Golden Charm: June 4, 6th race, $780; June 16, 7th race, $660. Miss Casey: June 24, 3rd race, $195): Blofeld Syndicate—$2,355.

BOURBON COURAGE (I Have Courage: June 18, 2nd race, $172.50. Never Grew Up: June 16, 3rd race, $780): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$952.50.

BUFFUM (Award Nominated: June 24, 7th race, $810): Buffum Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Utterly Enchanting: June 10, 7th race, $720): R. Larry Johnson.

DIVINING ROD (Dry Well: June 23, 6th race, $435. Flaming East: June 3, 3rd race, $255. Kellan: June 25, 2nd race, $1,980. Liquidator: June 10, 3rd race, $2,430. Looking for Water: June 25, 4th race, $435. Rascally Rebel: June 2, 1st race, $390): Divining Rod Syndicate—$5,925.

DORTMUND (Sigmund: June 23, 1st race, $1,080): Kaleem S. Shah.

FRIESAN FIRE (Freeze the Fire: June 3, 9th race, $2,340. Peace Fire: June 23, 3rd race, $270. Shady Munni: June 9, 2nd race, $1,170. Willful Desire: June 25, 3rd race, $1,620): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$5,400.

GOLDEN LAD (Air Token: June 23, 4th race, $600. Golden Heart: June 10, 6th race, $1,980. Goldrush Hottie: June 2, 3rd race, $390. I'm Gittin There: June 4, 7th race, $435; June 23, 6th race, $870. Oxide: June 18, 9th race, $810. Quit Quay: June 17, 10th race, $540): Golden Lad Syndicate—$5,625.

GREAT NOTION (Brilliant Ice: June 11, 7th race, $810; June 24, 7th race, $405. Cynergy's Star: June 17, 7th race, $435. Fun Notion: June 9, 3rd race, $1,980. Good Story: June 10, 9th race, $375. Great Heavens: June 10, 5th race, $405. He's Pure Talent: June 17, 4th race, $1,620. Meliponini Bee: June 16, 2nd race, $322.50. Rock the Boat: June 24, 8th race, $435. Run Bucky Run: June 16, 1st race, $390. Speedyness: June 16, 3rd race, $2,340. Tea Rose: June 4, 6th race, $390. Upsidedown Man: June 16, 9th race, $1,620. Watch Me Disappear: June 10, 9th race, $1,125; June 23, 9th race, $202.50): Great Notion Syndicate—$12,855.

HOLY BOSS (Beautiful Gorgeous: June 18, 5th race, $330. Boss Man J J: June 9, 7th race, $360. Bosserati: June 2, 6th race, $2,430; June 18, 8th race, $4,500. Holy Synchronicity: June 17, 7th race, $2,610. Poggibonsi: June 17, 10th race, $1,620): Holy Boss Syndicate—$11,850.

IMAGINING (Hazelmoor Beach: June 23, 3rd race, $1,620. Imagine It All: June 24, 4th race, $262.50. Imagine Victory: June 4, 2nd race, $270. Winked: June 2, 6th race, $810. Zevon: June 16, 5th race, $390): Imagining Syndicate—$3,352.50.

IRISH WAR CRY (Feeling Woozy: June 24, 9th race, $810. Fivecommatwo: June 23, 9th race, $405. Inspired Irish: June 2, 8th race, $1,620): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$2,835.

KOBE'S BACK (Trash Talkin Larry: June 4, 8th race, $330): Bonita Farm.

LONG RIVER (Food Foodie: June 3, 1st race, $262.50. Step Ahead: June 4, 1st race, $375; June 25, 10th race, $375): Long River Syndicate—$1,012.50.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Buckin' Lucky: June 25, 2nd race, $330): Madefromlucky Syndicate.

MOSLER (Esperannna: June 10, 7th race, $360. Hello Hot Rod: June 11, 5th race, $930. Lady Mosler: June 9, 1st race, $525. Luv Ya Bye Bye: June 9, 4th race, $1,125. Next Episode: June 10, 4th race, $720. Response Time: June 2, 7th race, $1,050. Wicked Prankster: June 18, 6th race, $435): Mosler Syndicate—$5,145.

NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: June 9, 6th race, $600): Not For Love Syndicate.

ORIENTATE (Cannon's Roar: June 11, 1st race, $600): Orientate Syndicate.

REDEEMED (Patriotic Party: June 17, 2nd race, $360): Redeemed Syndicate.

SCIPION (The Last Scip: June 24, 10th race, $1,260): Scipion Syndicate.

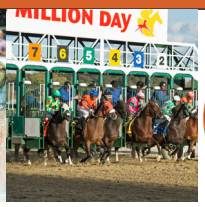
SEVILLE (GER) Amplio Esquema: June 11, 4th race, $360. Chelichna: June 3, 8th race, $810. Downtown Katie: June 23, 7th race, $405. Samui Sunset: June 2, 2nd race, $480. Seville Row: June 24, 10th race, $210. Sorolla: June 3, 4th race, $525): Seville Syndicate—$2,790.

STREET MAGICIAN (By the Sey Shore: June 9, 7th race, $2,160. Street Copper: June 24, 8th race, $870. Tanka Tough: June 23, 3rd race, $540. Whenigettoheaven: June 11, 6th race, $405): R. Larry Johnson—$3,975.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: June 9, 2nd race, $390. Bad Temper: June 10, 2nd race, $1,080): Country Life Farm—$1,470.

October is Horse Month in Maryland!

Maryland's horse industry is center stage locally and internationally!



The Capital Challenge Horse Show
Sept 28-Oct 8, 2023 Prince George's Equestrian Center
capitalchallenge.org

Celebration of the Horse
Oct 7, 2023 Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
tuckahoeequestriancenter.com

State/National Jousting Championships
Oct 7 Crownsville ~ Oct. 14, 2023 Knoxville
marylandjousting.com

Jim McKay Maryland Million Day
Oct. 14, 2023 Laurel Park
marylandmillion.com

MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill
Oct. 19 - 22, 2023 Fair Hill
maryland5star.us

Washington International Horse Show
Oct. 23 - 29, 2023 Prince George's Equestrian Center
wihs.org

Canter for the Cause
Oct. 29, 2023 Pimlico Race Course
pimlico.com

Horse Discovery Centers
Want to meet a horse? Contact the HDC closest to you!
MDA.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/horse_board.aspx

MarylandHorse.com/maryland-horse-month

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **October 2023** -

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Mia's Crusade runs away with Eleven North Handicap

Mia's Crusade, who won the Spruce Fir Handicap in the slop to start her 4-year-old campaign, won for the fifth time in 15 career starts for trainer Chuck Spina when scoring in the Eleven North Handicap Aug. 27. Jomar Torres rode the daughter of Greenpointcrusader, who sat a stalking trip in fourth behind the early speed and drew off when asked coming out of the final turn.

The winning time for the 6 furlongs was 1:10.76. Beach Daze finished second, 1¼ lengths ahead of Roselba.

Mia's Crusade, owned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia and Spina, went off the favorite in the field of nine fillies and mares and paid $3.60 to win. She was bred by the Ioias.

"Every race she seems to get better and better and this has been her best year yet," said Torres, who has ridden her in her last 12 starts. "She can run on any surface – fast dirt, slop, turf. She does love the slop but the track was fast today and she ran a great race.

"I just asked her once around the turn and she responded. We got a nice set-up behind the speed. She broke well and she settled and she was ready when I asked. This was one of her better performances."

Spina said consistency continues to be Mia's Crusade's greatest strength. She has a 5-2-2 line from her 15 lifetime starts.

"She tries every time," he said. "Six furlongs is her best distance. But going a mile on the dirt two races ago she was only beaten a length. She's just so honest. She hardly has any breeding but she gives her all every time. Is she better in the slop? Probably. But she couldn't have done much better than she did today on a fast track."

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Speaking repeats in New Jersey Breeders Handicap

It didn't take long for Speaking to state his case to repeat as New Jersey's champion sprinter.

Honored by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey as last year's top state-bred sprinter and champion 3-year-old male, Speaking began making his case for more accolades this year with a 4-length romp in the New Jersey Breeders Handicap during the New Jersey Thoroughbred Festival at Monmouth Park Aug. 27.

It marked the second straight year he has won the New Jersey Breeders. The 4-year-old son of Mr Speaker owned and bred by Holly Crest Farm got his sixth victory in 14 career starts and came in following a 98-day layoff.

"I wasn't worried about the layoff because he has been working so well," said winning trainer Eddie Owens. "I was more worried about running him without Lasix. I knew if he broke good, which he did, they were going to have a problem with him. He's very fast. If anyone in the race broke with him they were going to have problems.

"He's a very nice horse. I think he's one of the best sprinters in the country when he's right."

Ridden by Jairo Rendon, Speaking broke quickly from the rail and shook off prolonged pressure from Bustin Loose

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

through an opening quarter of :21.89 and a first half of :44.81.

A discouraged Bustin Loose soon gave way, leaving Speaking without a challenger. Pogi finished second, 1¼ lengths ahead of favorite No Cents.

Speaking paid $7.40 to win. Time for the 6 furlongs was 1:10.86.

"The plan was to get him out there, especially being on the rail," said Rendon. "I didn't want there to be too much pressure on him. He got out good. I didn't have to use him to get the lead, which was good. He didn't use too much energy to make the lead. [Bustin Loose] tried to stay with him early but I could see he [jockey Jose Ferrer] was using his horse and I wasn't using my horse so I wasn't worried about that."

Now 2-for-3 this year, having won the John J. Reilly Handicap in his last start May 21, Owens said he plans to give Speaking time off until January.

TBANJ launches redesigned website

The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey is proud to announce the launch of a newly-designed www.njbreds.com website. The new site features the latest news and happenings in New Jersey's equine industry along with daily entries and results sorted alphabetically by breeder for all New Jersey-breds racing across the country.

The farms/services page has the most up to date information for New Jersey breeding farms including all the services available to potential clients. Members and fans have access to the stakes schedule, racing calendar, and newsletters that showcase the New Jersey breeding program.

"NJbreds.com is a great resource for the New Jersey Thoroughbred breeding and racing industries," said Mike Campbell, executive director of the TBANJ. "We are committed to maintaining the website year-round and look forward to adding additional features in the future."

Vindictive retired to stud at Pegasus Stud

Pegasus Stud in New Jersey announced Aug. 9 the acquisition of graded-placed winner Vindictive, who will enter stud in 2024 at the farm owned by the Spinella family.

Vindictive, a 5-year-old son of the champion juvenile Uncle Mo out of the graded-placed stakes winner Exotic Bloom (by Montbrook), was bred in Kentucky by Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings and purchased for $200,000 by Solis/Litt Bloodstock at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale. He would eventually be campaigned by Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stable and LNJ Foxwoods with trainer Todd Pletcher.

The colt became a winner in his second start at 3, winning a 1⅛-mile maiden special weight at Saratoga Race Course and defeating eventual Grade 1 winner Cody's Wish. He would end his sophomore year with a third in the Discovery Stakes at Aqueduct, where he earned a 104 Equibase Speed Figure (ESF).

At 4, Vindictive was runner-up by a head in the Pimlico Special Stakes-G3 to multiple graded stakes winner First Captain. The performance earned him a 106 ESF, which was the fourth triple-digit speed rating of his career. He has been retired with a 4-1-1 record from eight starts and $300,960 in earnings.

"Vindictive is an impressive physical specimen who has both performance and pedigree on his resume," said Alex Solis II with Solis/Litt. "His four victories from eight starts came in New York against top competition, including a decisive win over Cody's Wish. Vindictive comes from the esteemed Uncle Mo line, known for producing exceptional sires."

Pletcher described Vindictive as "a typical Uncle Mo offspring with great size, mental competitiveness, and definite Grade 1 stakes-winning ability."

"He was on the verge of cracking the upper echelon of racing before his career was cut short," he said. "He put in a brilliant effort in winning his final start at Belmont Park earlier this year."

Pletcher has retained lifetime breeding rights in Vindictive along with Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stable, LNJ Foxwoods, SB Racing, Gatewood Bell and Jason Litt.

"Vindictive was a talented race horse posting five single-digit Ragozin Sheets numbers in eight career starts," said Rick Sacco, who purchased Vindictive for stallion duties. "He's a stunning, big and athletic horse by one of the country's best stallions in Uncle Mo.

"The female side of the pedigree is equally powerful," Sacco continued. "His dam, Exotic Bloom, was a stakes winner and she has produced a Breeders' Cup winner. Vindictive is a serious addition to the Pegasus Stud stallion operation and to the state of New Jersey breeding program in general."

Exotic Bloom is also the dam of multiple Grade 1 winner Stopchargingmaria (Tale of the Cat), who counted the 2015 Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 among her eight graded stakes victories. The immediate family also includes Grade 1 winner Hatchet Man, Grade 1-placed stakes winners Van Beethoven and Distorted Legacy, and Illinois Derby-G2 winner and Travers Stakes-G1 runner-up Vision and Verse.

2024 Board of Trustees Nominating Committee

The nominating committee of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey invites members of the Association to submit nominations for consideration in developing its slate of nominees for the 2024 Board of Trustees. The committee is accepting candidates for six members to serve on the Board of Trustees. Please read section 4.2 of the TBA bylaws below to determine if you are eligible to serve on the Board.

Trustees must be residents of the State of New Jersey and breeder members of the TBANJ in good standing who have made payment of their dues on or before May 1 of the year in which they are nominated to election to the board.

Incumbent and prospective members of the Board of Trustees, including the President, must have their current membership dues paid on or before May 1 and own controlling interest (more than 50%) in at least one broodmare or stallion domiciled in the State of New Jersey. That broodmare must have a registered New Jersey-bred foal or be pronounced in foal in each of the years that the incumbent and prospective members of the Board of Trustees serve on the board. If the mare fails to conceive when bred or is unfit to breed due to health reasons, the incumbent or prospective member of the Board of Trustees must file a letter from a veterinarian certifying that the mare failed to conceive or the reason why the mare is unfit to breed. If the incumbent and prospective member is a stallion owner, said stallion must be a registered stallion in the year in which the incumbent and

prospective members serve on the board. Additionally, incumbent, and prospective members of the Board of Trustees shall file qualifications as breeder members, in writing, to the TBANJ office prior to filing application for election and prior to the first meeting each January.

If you are interested in nominating a member in good standing, please contact a member of the nominating committee no later than Oct. 7, 2023. Nominating committee members are: Mike D'Antonio (201) 317-2432, Sam Fieramosca (732) 542-3830, and Joan Milne (908) 303-4900.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $65.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $100.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
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W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
(732) 542-8880
email: njbreds@gmail.com

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

October 2023

President's message

Congratulations to Nancy Shuford, Bill and Carrington Price, Denise Walsh, and Dan Shea for their horses' victories. Also, well done to all who had horses make it to the track.

I was fortunate to watch two of our NC-connected horses, Gospel Way and Cainudothetwist, run live at Colonial Downs Aug. 11. The weekend at the track proved to be a lot of fun. Colonial Downs can be proud of how they orchestrated their biggest weekend of racing. My racetrack buddies gathered and flew in from New York, Massachusetts, Florida, and Louisiana to be there. We were lucky enough to get a table in the Jockey Club suite on Arlington Million Day, where we found a marvelous buffet waiting for us. I never made it down to the paddock due to the heat, therefore I didn't get any pictures of the horses. It was hot! Celebrating the 50 years of Secretariat's Triple Crown victory, the track brought in the traveling one-and-a-half-size statue of Secretariat for viewing, and they gave away quality Secretariat t-shirts and free spins at the casino. Best of all, though, I didn't have to fly, and it was an easy drive that only took three and a quarter hours.

I am grateful to Art Bauer for sharing his foal photos. The two fillies were both born on his NC farm near Waxhaw. Cuteness abounds. Please share any pictures you have.

Please start thinking about renewing your memberships. Membership runs from January to December. Thank you.

–Rebecca

Art Bauer's North Carolina-bred Irish War Cry fillies are out of Girl On a Mission (above), foaled Feb. 23, and She's Stylish (below), March 30.

Race Review

July 25-August 24

Sag Harbor (Palace out of Dynamite Dame, by El Prado-Ire), won at Mountaineer Park Aug. 1 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 6-year-old chestnut horse ran 6 furlongs on a fast track in 1:11.81. Sag Harbor was bumped at the start and dropped to the back, was behind through the turn, moved to the rail at the top of the stretch, and rallied from the inside to win by one furlong.

Cainudothetwist (Americain out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr), broke her maiden at Colonial Downs Aug. 3 for breeders Bill and Carrington Price. The 6-year-old mare ran 1⅛ miles on the firm turf course 1:49.76. Cainudothetwist hung behind, started gaining ground at the turn, made a bid from the inside, and got clear late to win by three-quarters of a length. Eight days later she was second over hurdles in the Randolph D. Rouse Stakes at Colonial Downs Aug. 11 after leading into the stretch.

Gulfstream Way (Gemologist out of Clever Cookie, by Smart Strike) won at Ellis Park Aug. 4 for breeder Denise Walsh. The 5-year-old bay gelding ran 6 furlongs in 1:09.60 on a fast dirt track. Gulfstream Way was bumped at the start, tracked in

between horses, chased the leaders entering the stretch, charged on the inside to make a bid at the sixteenth-pole and advanced to the lead to win by a nose.

Bourbon Diversion (Bellamy Road out of Bourbon Twist, by Langfuhr), won at Colonial Downs Aug. 18 for breeders and owners Bill and Carrington Price. The 4-year-old dark bay filly ran 2¼ miles over hurdles in 4:08.14. Bourbon Diversion broke on top and led gate-to-wire. She gained a clear lead after 1½ miles, dug in when challenged down the stretch, and drove home to win by a length.

Shea D World (World of Trouble out of Sweet Saturday, by Any Given Saturday) won by 12 lengths at Delaware Park Aug. 24 for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stable. The 2-year-old dark bay colt ran 5½ furlongs in 1:06.14 on a fast track. Sent to the lead running three-wide, he was challenged on the turn but responded when asked and spurted away while ridden out. This was the second win in three starts for Shea D World – in between he was third in Monmouth Park's Tyro Stakes.

Hitting the Board

July 25 – August 24, 2023

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
29-Jul	Antenna	Monmouth Park	Bred by Bill Thompson	2nd
30-Jul	Shea D World	Monmouth Park $100K Tyro S	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy Stable	3rd
31-Jul	Loki's Lightning	Fort Erie	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
1-Aug	Explicate	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Bred by Beth Muirhead	3rd
1-Aug	Sag Harbor	Mountaineer	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
3-Aug	Cainudothetwist	Colonial Downs	Bred by Bill & Carrington Price	WINNER!
4-Aug	Gulfstream Way	Ellis Park	Bred by Denise Walsh	WINNER!
5-Aug	Tiz Wicked Strong	Ellis Park	Bred & owned by Denise Walsh	3rd
10-Aug	Flat Out Flying	Delaware Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	3rd
10-Aug	Hartful Hope (NC)	Belterra Park	Bred by A. Bauer, owned by Gephardt, G&D Eckhardt	3rd
11-Aug	Cainudothetwist	Colonial Downs 75K Stakes	Bred by Bill & Carrington Price	2nd
12-Aug	Happy Boy Rocket	Louisiana Downs	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson	2nd
18-Aug	Bourbon Diversion	Colonial Downs	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	WINNER!
18-Aug	Ancient Times	Colonial Downs	Bred & owned by Bill & Carrington Price	2nd
19-Aug	Double Tough Tiger	Camarero Race Track	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
20-Aug	Cheeky Chaps	Mountaineer	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
24-Aug	Deceitful	Thistledown	Owned by Caroline Cooper & Rebecca Montaldo	3rd
24-Aug	Shea D World	Delaware Park	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy's Stable	WINNER!

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

October 2023
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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Pennsylvania Day at the Races

By Averie Levanti

The 22nd annual Pennsylvania's Day at the Races at Parx Racing took place Monday, Aug. 21 and featured 13 races and a card worth over $1 million in purses, highlighted by seven $100,000 stakes. Each of the 13 races represented a different winning breeder.

The lid lifter on the PA Day card featured a $60,000 maiden special weight for 2-year-old fillies. Dewey Doit, a daughter of Coal Front bred by George Elser's Elser Farms Corp, held off the rally of heavily favored Ringer Card for a gate-to-wire 2¼-length score in the 5½-furlong contest. Dewey Doit was a first-time starter purchased by Tilted Shamrock Racing Stable for $85,000 at this year's OBS June Sale, and she secured the 2,000th career victory for trainer John Servis.

The second race featured juvenile colts and geldings going 5½ furlongs for a $60,000 maiden purse. The longest shot on the board at 17-1, first-time starter Notice of Action took them gate-to-wire for an easy 4-length victory. Bred by Bryan Minnich, the son of Hoppertunity was purchased for $15,000 as a yearling by A.J. Hawthorne.

In the third race, Twist Her broke through in her third start to take the $60,000 maiden for fillies and mares, 3 and up, over 7 furlongs. The daughter of Uptowncharlybrown went to the post as the odds-on favorite and romped by 9½ lengths for breeder Richele Grieb.

The fourth race featured a purse of $70,000 for allowance fillies and mares, 3 and up, going 6½ furlongs. Closing from 13 lengths last in the field of 11, Warrior's Ransom circled the field and drew away for a powerful 8¾-length score. The daughter of Warrior's Reward was bred by Warrior's Reward LLC.

In the fifth race, a $60,000 maiden for 3 and up, last year's Pennsylvania Nursery runner-up Veeson finally broke through in his eighth start to win the 6-furlong contest by a length. The son of Il Villano was bred and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Russo.

Stakes action kicked off in the sixth race with the $100,000 Dr. Teresa Garafalo Memorial Stakes over 6 furlongs for fillies and mares. The second-longest shot in the field at 12-1, Kate Demasi-trained Mia Tosca rallied from fourth-place to sweep by the dueling pair of favored Golden Tabby and Gunfyre Gal to post a 1¼-length upset. The 4-year-old daughter of Animal Kingdom out of Queen Scheherazade was bred by Blackstone Farm LLC and recorded her first stakes win. The riders up call and trophy presentation were made by Frank Farry, State Senator from Bucks County.

The Marshall Jenney Handicap was conducted over 5 furlongs on turf. Talented Man dueled with Fore Harp through the early stages before putting that rival away. Confronted by odds-on favorite Witty turning for home, Talented Man gamely held off his rival for the duration of the stretch to post a head victory. The 4-year-old son of Talent Search bagged his first stakes victory for breeder, owner and trainer Michael Moore. The riders up call and trophy presentation

PA Day at the Races continued from page 1

were made by Kathleen Tomlinson, State Representative from Bucks County.

The first leg of the 2023 PA-Sired, PA-Bred 2yo Stallion Series for fillies kicked off with the $100,000 Miss Blue Tye Dye Stakes over 5½ furlongs. Third-time starter Jody's Ruby rallied inside frontrunner One Eyed Jackie and stablemate Sirani to post a 1¼-length maiden-breaking victory for trainer John Servis. The daughter of Talent Search out of the Broken Vow mare Mary Cole is bred and owned by Gilman Hallenbeck, and she's a full sister to Hallenbeck's stakes performer Uncle Ernie. The riders up call and trophy presentation were made by Shelby Labs, State Representative from Bucks County.

The $100,000 Banjo Picker Sprint over 6 furlongs featured a rematch between Twisted Ride, Uncle Ernie and Beren, the top three finishers from the Page McKenney Handicap in April. Twisted Ride sat off the early pace of longshot Magicnthemoonlight before taking the lead approaching the quarter pole. Approached by Beren at the head of the stretch, Twisted Ride fought gamely to the wire to post a half-length victory over his old rival, with Uncle Ernie another 7 lengths back in third. The victory was the fifth of the year and fourth career stakes victory for the son of Great Notion. Bred and owned by Kasey K Racing Stable, Twisted Ride is also owned by Final Turn Racing Stable and Michael Day. The riders up call and trophy presentation were made by Christina Sappey, State Representative from Chester County.

The other half of the PA 2yo Stallion Series kicked off with the $100,000 Whistle Pig Stakes over 5½ furlongs and featured a field of 10 colts and geldings. The early pace was set by first-time starter and longshot Chilling Hassle. Still maintaining the lead into the stretch, he was overtaken by a wide rallying Gamboling Ghost, who drew clear by 3 lengths at 8-1 odds. The gray son of Weigelia was no worse for wear only 12 days following his maiden-breaking effort at Presque Isle. Bred by Cindy Bartkowski and Scott Bunker, Gamboling Ghost was purchased for $9,500 as a yearling by owner and trainer Jason DaCosta.

The $100,000 Storm Cat over a mile and 70 yards featured the heaviest favorite of the day in the form of five-time stakes winner Nimitz Class. The Arrowwood Farm bred and owned colt broke from the gate at 3-5, but he proved no match for the streaking Buy Land and See. Disregarded at 5-1 off a third-place effort in the Hard Spun Stakes at Presque Isle, Buy Land and See initially sat off frontrunner Allevare before taking control by the half-mile call. The gray son of Cairo Prince only continued to add to his advantage, turning into the stretch with a 2½-length lead and coasting to the wire 3¼ lengths clear of Nimitz Class. Bred and owned by Joe Imbesi, Buy Land and See's Storm Cat victory over the dirt followed up his victory in the With Anticipation Stakes on the grass at Penn National in June. It was his sixth lifetime stakes victory.

Wrapping up stakes action was the $100,000 Mrs. Penny over 1 1/16 miles on the grass. Featuring a field of 13 fillies and mares, Neecie Marie closed from 10th, nearly a dozen lengths back in the early going, to take the lead from frontrunner Princess Runaway in mid-stretch. The 3-year-old daughter of Cross Traffic cleared away to a 2¼-length victory over In a Spin and Eight Danzas to notch her first stakes victory. Bred by Jon Marshall and purchased by Milam Racing Stable for $25,000 as a yearling, she is now 4-for-6 lifetime.

A $70,000 allowance for 3 and up at 6½ furlongs closed out the card. The compact field saw Keithsendshelloooo emerge as he split rivals in the stretch and won going away by 3¼ lengths for his second career victory. Bred and owned by Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC, the 3-year-old gelding is sired by the namesake stallion.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

About 400 breeders and guests descended on PARX Racing for PA Day at the Races Aug. 21. What a day! Over a million in purses, seven $100,000 Stakes, the kickoff of the 2yo Pa-Sired Pa-Bred Stallion Series, gifts, great food and we even gave away a John Deere Zero Turn Mower courtesy of the NTRA that was won by Danny Velasquez. We also had guest legislators calling riders-up and presenting trophies to our stakes winners. Congrats to all the winners and breeders.

The last leg of the 2yo PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series will be run at PARX Dec. 27 at a mile and 70 yards with purses of $200,000. Nominations for the December races for 2yos, if not already nominated, are $5,000 through the PHBA office. You can go to pabred.com under 'Horses Nominated' to see if your horse is on the list. If not, go to 'Forms' and print the nomination form. Please remember that if your horse is already nominated, you still MUST CALL the PARX racing office to enter.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. We will be transitioning to that in 2024. If you are still using a paper registration, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics which is attached to the registration form.

Broodmare domicile forms will be online in October for the 2024 foaling season. These domicile reports are mandatory, and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have. Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Have a great remainder of 2023 and Go PA!

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Over the last 10 years, the PHBA Breeding Fund
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UP TO 40%
in Owner Bonuses
UP TO 40%
in Breeders Awards
$4 MILLION
in purses for PA-Bred Stakes representing 29 races.

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through July 31, 2023

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	281,930	109,228	391,157
Warriors Reward	218,682	67,522	286,204
Glenn E. Brok LLC	206,835	69,818	276,654
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	236,836	236,836
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	171,421	63,341	234,762
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	67,395	119,403	186,798
Blackstone Farm LLC	150,745	0	150,745
William J. Solomon VMD	74,733	70,531	145,264
Richard N. Miller	125,229	19,701	144,930
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	135,715	0	135,715
St. Omer's Farm	126,968	0	126,968
Maria M. Haire	115,438	5,572	121,010

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Richard Molineaux	114,737	0	114,737
Pewter Stable	95,716	16,693	112,409
Joseph Imbesi	102,530	0	102,530
Peter Giangiulio	85,214	0	85,214
Michael Raymond Anspach	84,271	0	84,271
LC Racing LLC	74,368	0	74,368
Godstone Farm LLC	74,130	0	74,130
Barbara A. Rickline	64,636	8,364	73,000
Shirley A. Lojeski	72,647	0	72,647
Sylmar Farm Inc.	68,710	0	68,710
Social Inclusion Partners LLC	0	62,476	62,476
R H Breeding LLC	61,365	0	61,365

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	166	119,403
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	272	109,228
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	265	92,658
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	175	70,921
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	148	67,522
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	141	63,341
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	79	62,476
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	58	45,664
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	95	34,374
Albert the Great	William J. Solomon VMD	32	22,555
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	70	21,963
Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	38	21,467

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	69	19,799
El Padrino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	65	19,451
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	41	17,349
Winchill	Pewter Stable	32	16,693
Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	51	14,090
Almasty	William J. Solomon VMD	5	11,782
Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	37	9,697
Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	45	8,749
Last Gunfighter	William J. Solomon VMD	47	8,704
Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	25	8,364
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	31	7,825
Smarty Jones	Patricia L. Chapman	31	7,416

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Disco Ebo *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	4	20,000	67,984	16,996	28,560	193,952
Geebert *	Albert the Great - Gee Pari	Richard Molineaux	7	0	48,158	12,040	31,256	182,741
Date Night Kisses *	Weigelia - Tribal Verse	Emilie Bateman	5	0	34,853	8,713	23,034	171,416
Empress Deona *	Emperor Tiberius - Deona	Richard N. Miller	6	3,960	30,656	7,664	16,480	168,984
Johnny Ritt *	Weigelia - C J's Little Girl	Barbara Wheeler	7	0	40,120	10,030	23,240	168,216
Windsor Gold	Golden Lad - English Mum	Shooting Star Stable	8	0	27,798	0	33,440	159,760
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	4	0	34,759	8,690	24,828	135,232
Midnight in Alaska *	Almasty - Working At Night	Maria M. Haire	5	5,880	50,678	11,782	23,520	126,604
Beren *	Weigelia - Silmaril	Susan C. Quick	3	9,400	44,684	11,171	28,560	122,710
John Dutton *	Eastwood - Reconsider	Town and Country Farms Management LLC	7	0	28,312	7,078	10,080	121,916
Minxzhippsdontleye *	Hoppertunity - Extrasexyexotkminx	Toni M. Kirwan	7	0	28,330	7,083	20,236	121,781
Our Uptown Girl *	Uptowncharlybrown - Fringe Benefits	Barbara A. Rickline	7	0	28,824	7,206	14,060	119,800
Screen Saver *	Albert the Great - Touch Screen	Richard Molineaux	7	0	30,912	7,728	22,080	117,096
Arrogante *	Social Inclusion - Vianney Lane	Kristin Close	8	0	18,639	4,198	9,244	116,869
Magicnthemoonlight	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	6	0	29,016	0	32,880	114,480
Diesel *	Peace and Justice - Really a Gem	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	5	0	29,232	7,308	20,880	113,832
Marion Grace *	Uptowncharlybrown - Angel Food	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	4	0	33,880	7,672	21,920	110,296
Angelofthegalaxy *	Uptowncharlybrown - Galaxy Guardian	Godric LLC	9	0	16,161	3,479	9,805	102,775
Organized Chaos *	Weigelia - Harmonic Miss	Arrowwood Farm Inc.	7	2,970	24,766	6,191	8,454	100,549
For the Dreamers *	Talent Search - Avery's Smile	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	4	0	29,872	7,468	18,480	99,920
Rolls Royce Joyce *	Uptowncharlybrown - Joyce's Angel	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	5	0	23,677	5,919	16,912	99,770
Social Success *	Social Inclusion - Schuylkilla	Shirley A. Lojeski	5	0	55,800	13,476	5,040	99,384
Wizky's On the Bay *	Talent Search - Sundays On the Bay	Glenn E. Brok LLC	6	0	34,688	8,672	19,360	98,794
Isabella Smile *	El Padrino - Smilestone	Joseph Besecker	7	0	16,898	4,225	11,876	96,744

**Denotes PA-sired*

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Racing Across the Nation

Between July 23 and Aug. 13, four horses who underwent the breaking process at South Carolina training centers found their way to the winner's circle following Stakes races.

On July 23, **Dream Shake**, a graduate of Cary Frommer's program in Aiken, proved best in the Connaught Cup Stakes-G2 at Woodbine. Dream Shake stalked the leader down the backside and around the turn. While between rivals, he gained the advantage at the top of the stretch and hit the finish line a length in front. This was Dream Shake's second win in a row at Woodbine. During his 12 race career, Dream Shake has 4 wins and $469,426 in earnings.

Maldives Model, a Pennsylvania homebred owned by Tom Coulter and his Arrowood Farm, proved best in the Princess of Sylmar Stakes at Presque Isle Downs July 24. Coulter has been sending his yearlings to Randy and Kala Rentz in Erhardt for several years. Maldives Model, third for much of the race, rallied in the stretch to catch the favorite in the shadow of the finish line winning by a half length. This was the second stakes win for the 5-year-old mare. She has finished in the top three in 12 of 19 career starts, earning $251,340.

King Ice captured his second stakes win in a row when rallying from last to win the Governor's Handicap at Horseshoe Indianapolis Aug. 2. King Ice also won the Snack Handicap at Horseshoe Indianapolis July 8. A former student at Franklin "Goree" Smith's Elloree Training Center, this 3-year-old colt came out of the gate in a tangle, righted himself but trailed the field for the first half mile, dropping over 14 lengths behind the leader. He kicked into gear around the three-eighths pole coming five wide around the field and proved much the best, crossing the finish line 3¼ lengths in front. In nine career starts, King Ice has four wins and two seconds for earnings of $306,391.

Dataman, developed by Travis Durr at his Travis Durr Training Center in St. Matthews, won his second race in a row when proving best in the Bald Eagle Derby at Laurel Park Aug. 13. Dataman, while fourth, stalked the leader into the stretch. He made the lead around the sixteenth-pole and won by three-quarters of a length.

Upcoming events in South Carolina

The National Steeplechase Association has two meets scheduled for our state later this year. The Steeplechase of Charleston will be held Nov. 12. The NSA 2023 season comes to an end in Aiken Nov. 18 with the running of the Aiken Fall Steeplechase Championship. There is a strong possibility the leading horse, owner and jockey titles for 2023 will be decided on this day.

Done Talking and Straight Talking sire winners

In this day and age you do not see many South Carolina-breds in the winner's circle, but Goree Smith's stallion Done Talking sired three who won races between July 22 and Aug. 15.

Hummin' the Funk, a two-time winner at Mountaineer on Aug. 1 and Aug. 15, was bred by Smith. Goree is also the breeder and owner of Penny Loafer, who won his career debut at Mountaineer Aug. 8. Haint Blue, bred by Goree and owned by his brother, Hamilton, was an allowance winner at Delaware Park Aug. 10.

Straight Talking, who stood at the Elloree Training Center before he passed away, sired the Smith South Carolina-bred Performanceanxiety, a winner at Laurel Park July 22.

Debut Winners

When a horse wins first time out at the maiden special weight level, it shows talent and the desire to win. Debut winners are also an accomplishment shared by the trainer and crew at the farm or training center where the horse was first developed for their racing careers.

Travis Durr and his crew recently saw four 2-year-olds break their maidens first time out. The colt Tok Tok won at Colonial Downs July 27. Two days later, the filly Fourfiftyfour finished first at Woodbine. At Finger Lakes, Mybronxbaby proved best Aug. 1 and Maggy's Palace, a daughter of the Dogwood Stable campaigned Palace Malice, did likewise Aug. 15.

Coming out of Randy and Kala Rentz's training center, the 2-year-old colt Bustin Away won at first asking at Saratoga July 28 and the 2-year-old

gelding Bookem Danno did the same at Laurel Park Aug. 12.

Air Recruit, a 2-year-old graduate of Brad Stauffer and Ron Stevens' program at Legacy Stable in Aiken, won at Colonial Downs Aug. 5.

The 2-year-old filly Barbratina, broke by Cary Frommer, was best in her field at Ellis Park Aug. 11. Another Aiken grad, A Primera Vista, a 2-year-old filly who learned her early lessons under the care of Marcus and Crystal Ryan's Mason Springs operation, won at Delaware Park Aug. 17.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Firsttimeinforever	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/21/23	Del Mar	Maiden Special Weight
Liquidator	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/21/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Social Success	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/21/23	Penn National	Allowance
Prize Debate	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/21/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Donegal Arrow	Elloree Training Center	07/22/23	Evangeline Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Jolly by Golly	Elloree Training Center	07/22/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Fabs	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/22/23	Colonial Downs	Allowance
DREAM SHAKE	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/23/23	Woodbine	Connaught Cup S-G2
Tunechi	Travis Durr Training Center	07/23/23	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
A Western Yarn	Aiken - Legacy Stable	07/24/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
American Halite	Travis Durr Training Center	07/24/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Cairo Sugar	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/24/23	Parx Racing	Allowance
MALDIVES MODEL	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/24/23	Presque Isle	Princess of Sylmar S.
High Strike	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/24/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Amanda's Folly	Custom Care - D. Freyer	07/26/23	Saratoga	Allowance
L'Imperator	Arch Kingsley	07/26/23	Saratoga	Steeplechase
Tok Tok	Travis Durr Training Center	07/27/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Bustin Away	Rentz Farm Training Center	07/28/23	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Go to the Kingdom	Travis Durr Training Center	07/29/23	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
Fourfiftyfour	Travis Durr Training Center	07/29/23	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Summer Day	Aiken - Tony Mitchell	07/30/23	Hawthorne	Allowance
Archaic	Aiken - Cary Frommer	07/30/23	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
Lemon Bomb	Travis Durr Training Center/Aiken - Peter Pugh	07/31/23	Ellis Park	Maiden Special Weight
Shesawildjoker	Travis Durr Training Center	07/31/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Rock Star Parking	Elloree Training Center	08/01/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Allowance
Mybronxbaby	Travis Durr Training Center	08/01/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Warrior's Cause	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/01/23	Presque Isle	Maiden Special Weight
Ratatat	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/01/23	Thistledown	Allowance
KING ICE	Elloree Training Center	08/02/23	Horseshoe Indianapolis	Governor's H
Tiz Speedy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/02/23	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Royal Suspect	Travis Durr Training Center	08/02/23	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Mirus	Elloree Training Center	08/03/23	Hawthorne	Maiden Special Weight
Jilli Marie	Travis Durr Training Center	08/03/23	Woodbine	Allowance
Deeds of Love	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/04/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Caribbean Pleasure	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/04/23	Charles Town	Allowance
Air Recruit	Aiken - Legacy Stable	08/05/23	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Samira	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/05/23	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
Javistha	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/05/23	Prairie Meadows	Starter Allowance
Prove My Love	Travis Durr Training Center	08/05/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Penny Loafer	Elloree Training Center	08/08/23	Mountaineer	Maiden Special Weight
Haint	Blue Elloree Training Center	08/10/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Smoochinwithcindy	Elloree Training Center	08/11/23	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Barbratina	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/11/23	Ellis Park	Maiden Special Weight
Proud Mule	Travis Durr Training Center	08/11/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Midnight Heiress	Travis Durr Training Center	08/11/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Junonia	Aiken - Neil Morris	08/11/23	Colonial Downs	Steeplechase Handicap
Rough Passage	Kirkwood Stables	08/12/23	Oneida Fair	Allowance
Onerollofthedice	Cusrom Care-D. Freyer	08/12/23	Evangeline Downs	Allowance
Uncorked	Custom Care-D. Freyer	08/12/23	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Smile Mon	Aiken-Rebekah Hurt	08/12/23	Ellis Park	Maiden Special Weight
Consultant	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/12/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Bookem Danno	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/12/23	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
Double Crown	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/13/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Zadorsky	Travis Durr Training Center	08/13/23	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
DATAMAN	Travis Durr Training Center	08/13/23	Laurel Park	Bald Eagle Derby
Jay Jay Dee	Rentz Farm Training Center	08/14/23	Charles Town	Starter Allowance
Maggy's Palace	Travis Durr Training Center	08/15/23	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
A Primera Vista	Mason Springs	08/17/23	Delaware Park	Maiden Special Weight
Hardspun Reason	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/18/23	Laurel Park	Allowance
Animal Kingston	Aiken - Neil Morris	08/18/23	Colonial Downs	Steeplechase Handicap
Bourbon Diversion	Arch Kingsley	08/18/23	Colonial Downs	Steeplechase Maiden Special Weight
Still My Babe	Travis Durr Training Center	08/19/23	Delaware Park	Allowance
Concealed Carry	Travis Durr Training Center	08/19/23	Woodbine	Allowance
Javistha	Aiken - Cary Frommer	08/20/23	Prairie Meadows	Starter Allowance
Carats Forever	Travis Durr Training Center	08/20/23	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight

VIRGINIA

INTEGRATION, THIRTY THOU KELVIN CAPTURE VIRGINIA DERBY, VIRGINIA OAKS AT COLONIAL DOWNS

Integration sets a new course record in winning the Virginia Derby September 9 (Coady Photography).

The August 12 New Kent County Virginia Day program at Colonial Downs showcased stars from across the country competing in six turf stakes races. The final day of the 2023 meet offered a combined $1.3 million in stakes purse money as part of an 11-race card. Among the top performances were a pair of stakes wins for jockey Trevor McCarthy, plus Graham Motion and Jorge Ruiz teaming up to win two races on the day. as did Shug McGaughey and Kendrick Carmouche.

West Point Thoroughbred and Woodford Racing LLC's Integration came flying down the center of the track to get the best of Program Trading in the $500,000 Grade 3 New Kent County Virginia Derby. Covering the 1 1/8 miles in 1:46.41 over a firm outer turf course, the 3-year-old trained by Shug McGaughey set a course record, .06 seconds faster than Flippant's effort set Aug 31, 2021.

Under jockey Kendrick Carmouche, the 3-year-old Quality Road colt relaxed nicely staying two-wide near the back as Runaway Storm blitzed through early fractions of :22.80 and :46.80. The 3-5 favorite Program Trading got the first jump on the leader in the homestretch, but having followed him throughout, Integration shot by with a perfectly timed move to put 1 1/4 lengths between him and the Chad Brown trainee. The Virginia Derby was just Integration's second start. On August 12 at Colonial Downs, he broke his maiden going 1 1/16 miles on the inner turf course, winning by 6 1/2 lengths.

"Shug felt his debut here would be the best spot for his first race," said Dawn Lenert, the Chief Marketing Officer and Director of Partner Relations for West Point Thoroughbreds. "Although it was unconventional, Shug felt a graded stake would be the right spot for his second race, and when a Hall of Fame trainer tells you you're going to come back in a graded stake, you do it. After the race Kendrick (jockey Carmouche) said to me Integration's potential is limitless."

Program Trading was second followed by Runaway Storm, Mondego, Dataman, Virginia-bred Gigante, Activist Investing, Salute the Stars, and Ari Gold.

SJB Stable's Thirty Thou Kelvin was headed in the stretch but dug deep to come back to win the $250,000 Woodford Reserve Virginia Oaks by a neck. Covering 1 1/8 miles in 1:48.04 across a firm turf course, Thirty Thou Kelvin led every step except a few strides in the stretch when Alpha Bella poked a nose in front to her outside at the furlong marker.

"I was really shocked to be on the lead," McCarthy said. "When the five (Broadway Girls) acted up to my inside in the gate, I thought I'd make sure to get a good break. This filly jumped right out of there, and John and Tanya (Terranova) said just be confident with her and don't take away anything that comes easy. After she broke in front, she turned off in the first turn and had her ears pricked down the backside. I tried to get away from them at the 5/16-pole but it wasn't until she had company that she said, 'It's game time, let's fight.' I'm super happy for the connections. I love it here at Colonial Downs. It's the best turf course in the country."

In the first of the day's stakes events, Patricia's Hope LLC's Nobals got up in the last jump over Alogon to win the $150,000 Korbel Da Hoss Stakes by a head. Trainer Larry Rivelli gave the call to jockey Pablo Morales who guided the gelded son of Noble Mission across the firm turf covering 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:01.46. The win was the ninth in 17 starts for the 4-year-old to boost his lifetime bankroll to $933,274.

Wertheimer and Frere's Tok Tok stalked the leader, got the jump and held on late to win the $125,000 TAA Kitten's Joy Stakes for 2-year-olds. Jorge Ruiz was aboard the Graham Motion trainee who broke his maiden going 5 1/2 furlongs in July at Colonial. The son of Quality Road finished 1 1/4 lengths in front of first-time-starter Triple Espresso, covering the 1 1/16 miles in 1:45.11. With a perfect record, both over the local lawn, Tok Tok has racked up $111,000 in lifetime earnings.

Bregman Family Racing and WWBD LLC's Irish-bred No Nay Mets tallied his third stakes victory in the $125,000 Exacta Systems Rosie's Stakes for juveniles. Going 5 1/2 furlongs, the son of No Nay Never shot to the front, withstood early pressure from King Konte but pulled away with ease to win under wraps by 3 1/4 lengths over Toupie. Paco Lopez rode the colt for trainer George Weaver who sprinted the distance in 1:02.03. The $75,000 winner's share from Saturday elevated his earnings to $183,000 and his career record 4-3-1-0, his

lone loss coming in the Norfolk Stakes (G2) at Royal Ascot.

In the final race of the day as well as the season, Nice Guys Stables' Starting Over took the lead in deep stretch en route to a one-length victory in the $150,000 Korbel Colonial Cup Stakes. Two-time Colonial riding champion Trevor McCarthy rode the Mike Maker-trained son Liam's Map who covered 1 ½ miles over firm turf in 2:29.30.

CHAMBEAU, DETERMINED KINGDOM COLLECT SECOND STAKES WINS AT COLONIAL ON "COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONS DAY" PROGRAM

The best and brightest horses representing the Virginia breeding and certified program were on display August 12 at the Commonwealth Champions Day at Colonial Downs. Among the top performances were a stakes riding double for jockey Horacio Karamanos and a second stakes win of the meet for Chambeau and Determined Kingdom.

In the first of the day's stakes events, Reilly McDonald's Passion Play took the lead on the far turn and was relentless in holding off the late challenges from DARRS, Inc.'s Palio and Jeremy Brooks' Wow Whata Summer to prevail by a neck in the $150,000 Bert Allen Stakes. Horacio Karamanos was aboard the Virginia-bred Mary Eppler-trained son of Hold Me Back who covered the 1-1/16 miles over firm turf in 1:43.67. The win was the sixth in 29 starts for the 7-year-old gelding who earned $90,000 for the effort to boost his lifetime bankroll to $327,497. The victor was bred by Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III.

"This horse deserved to win," said Karamanos, who has ridden Passion Play in nine of his last 10 starts including a win in the 2021 edition of this race. "He always tries. His last race (a seventh-place finish) was so tough for him. Today, I just wanted him to break ok and see how the race unfolded. After a couple others went to the front, I sat back a bit and relaxed until the eighth pole. When I asked him, he fired so nicely all the way to the wire."

O'Sullivan Farms' Unruly Julie changed tactics and ran to a front-stepping, half-length tally over Naval Empire in the $150,000 Nellie Mae Cox Stakes under jockey Wesley Ho. The Javier Contreras-trained mare ran the 1-1/16 miles in 1:42.25 to score her seventh victory from 36 trips to the post. She added $60,000 to her lifetime earnings which now stand at $225,819.

D Hatman Thoroughbreds and Kingdom Bloodstock, Inc.'s Determined Kingdom improved from a sixth-place finish in the 2022 edition of the Meadow Stable Stakes to notch a wire-to-wire neck victory as the 4-5 favorite in the $150,000 2023 renewal of the 5½-furlong dash. Victor Carrasco rode the gelded son of Animal Kingdom for trainer and co-owner Phil Schoenthal who sprinted the distance in 1:02.08.

"He's certainly taken a step forward as a 4-year-old," Schoenthal said. "He's a lot keener horse. It's a beautiful thing to have a Virginia-bred who loves the grass at Colonial. We'll give him a couple of starts in the fall and then turn him out on the farm like we do with all our grass horses. As long he's doing good we'll make this a regular stop every year."

The Meadow Stable was the sixth win in 18 starts for Determined Kingdom, who previously won the Punch Line here in July. The $90,000 winner's share Saturday elevated his earnings to $442,189. He was bred by Audey Farm Equine, LLC.

Bird Mobberly LLC's Low Mileage rallied along the rail to take command mid-stretch and draw off to a 3¼-length victory in the $125,000 Jamestown Stakes for Virginia-bred/sired 2-year-olds. Jevian Toledo was aboard the John Salzman trainee who recorded his first stakes tally and second win in four starts overall. The daughter of Mineshaft covered the 5½-furlongs in 1:04.22 and earned $75,000 for the score to push her bankroll to $121,500. The winner was also bred by Audley Farm.

Wrapping up the stakes action was the $150,000 Camptown Stakes which was taken by Sam English II's Chambeau who picked up her third win of the season after capturing the Tyson Gilpin/Glenn Petty Stakes in July and an allowance race last week.

"I wasn't as confident today as I was last week," owner/breeder English said after the win. "We only started her (for the first time) as a 5-year-old, and she's only run eight times in her life. She's a special horse."

Thirty Thou Kelvin and jockey Trevor McCarthy prevailed in the Virginia Oaks (Coady Photography).

Chambeau and jockey Horacio Karamanos were best in the Sept. 2 Camptown Stakes. The pair teamed up for two other wins and a second this summer at Colonial (Coady Photography).

Determined Kingdom scored his second stakes win of the summer in New Kent by winning the Meadow Stable Stakes Sept. 2 (Coady Photography).

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THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter October 2023

A Diversity Classic

By Jeff Gilleas. Photographs by Coady Photography.

There were so many great performances on Charles Town Classic night, that I gave up on the idea of attempting to acknowledge each one here. However, I feel bound to mention those efforts that were far more than just images on a picture screen.

Comparisons from year to year are problematic, but one overriding variant was the ability of female trainers to excel at America's turf headquarters, Friday, Aug. 25, our record-breaking night of racing action. In most sports gender equality is not so equal. Though females comprise half of the population in the United States, the inequality in athletics that exists is often deep-rooted and institutionalized. One sport, Thoroughbred horse racing, seems to have satisfied the difficulty for women to compete in the recognition and comparable treatment sector, as they battle head-to-head against their male counterparts.

The present took its queue from the past, as historic pioneers in the industry, Barbara Jo Rubin and Sylvia Bishop, proudly cast their idealistic character over the proceedings.

Damon's Mound wins the Robert Hilton Memorial.

Cynthia McKee sent out her No Change to win the Frank Gall Memorial.

The first race on the program initiated the gender discourse when a West Virginia-bred daughter of Friesan Fire out of Glory Girl scored for conditioner Kristy Gazzier.

A change in equipment to blinkers in the maiden special weight contest supplied the much needed resolve for successful breeder Christina Vena.

Statistically, trainer Sara Kopecki has experienced a quiet year in the win column, but such is the magic of Classics nightfall, as her filly Silver Rules made the most of a ground-saving ride to capture the West Virginia-bred allowance contest for fillies and mares. Owned and bred by Swoosh LLC, the dark bay filly is by Ruler King out of Silver Stones.

The fifth race was the $75,000-guaranteed Last Enchantment Stakes, and Christmas in August was the theme for trainer Linda Dollinger-Stehr as she sent out Jefferson Native to victory. A son of Officer Rocket (GB) out of Absolutelygorgeous has had some bad beats in his career, but was extremely responsive to the urging of jockey Javier Rivera to prevail by a half-length.

Bred at Bybee Road Farm, by the late Dennis Bybee, Jefferson Native is owned by Linda's husband Tony, and in victory pushed his earnings past the $180,000 mark. The connections of Jefferson Native possess deep roots in the community and had their stable star dialed-in for his breakout effort.

The sixth race on the card (Autumn Stakes) had handicappers savoring every furlong with the anticipated duel between Jill Daniel's multiple stakes winner Great Spirit and Tim and Judy Grams' undefeated Maggie's Girl.

Crystal Pickett (Great Spirit) and Grams are in the apex of their respective careers, and both came loaded for bear with horses of elite ability.

Unfortunately, Great Spirit was compromised by a poor start and never able to settle into a comfortable rhythm. Pickett, who recently realized the 500 win plateau, watched her runner dramatically quicken at the end of the race to garner show money.

Team Grams' star is growing physically and mentally, at an accelerated rate, but could not cut into the victorious margin of impressive winner, FTF Racing LLC's Stryda.

The Robert R. Hilton Memorial increased its purse to $350,000 for it's 12th running and it proved a wise move, attracting some of the nation's top 3-year-old males. Lord Miles, winner of the Grade 2 Wood Memorial, Ryvit from the potent barn of Steve Asmussen, and Damon's Mound, sparkling victor of the 2022 edition of the Grade 2 Saratoga Special, loaded in the gate alongside a plethora of talented stakes performers.

Vahva takes the $750,000 Grade 3 Charles Town Oaks.

Swirvin and Damon's Mound, both sons of Girvin, set out to make the early pace over the sealed but fast surface, with 9-5 favorite Ryvit getting the pocket trip. Lord Miles could see them all from his last place vantage point.

Fractions were quick as the full field of 10 swept past the Inn at Charles Town. On the bullring configuration it is only an eighth of a mile from the top of the stretch to the wire, and Damon's Mound asserted his dominance while Lord Miles unleashed his patented come-from-behind bid.

Damon's Mound, with the diuretic Lasix proving a valuable addition, held sway for a determined 2-length score for owners Cliff and Michele Love, and trainer Michelle Lovell.

Race 10 was the $750,000 Charles Town Oaks-G3, now the richest sprint stakes in the country for sophomore fillies. An enterprising group of 10 greeted the overflow crowd with Vahva, a daughter of Gun Runner, making the most of her rail position and tight turn trip under jockey John Velazquez. The Hall of Fame rider has often used Charles Town Races as his summer playground on Classics night.

Content to chase her opposition early, the beautifully turned-out bay aggressively seized command at the top of the lane and enthusiastically revealed the potential her pedigree suggests. Vahva is owned by a large partnership group headed by Belladonna Racing, and is trained by Cherie Devaux.

Though Doppelganger (Charles Town Classic), didn't run to his recent workout over the track, I would be remiss if I didn't praise trainer Brittany Russell and the phenomenal year she is having. Currently ranked 16th nationwide among her peers in money earned, she is winning at an incredible 26 percent.

Race 13 was the Frank Gall Memorial for accredited West Virginia-bred males. No Change, a son of Fiber Sonde out of Looks Like Trouble, had been testing wide-open company of late, and found the return to state bred competition the perfect remedy for success. Owned and trained by Cynthia McKee and bred by her late husband John, No Change seems to thrive on activity.

Charles Town Classic evening was a huge success and, not to disparage a certain gender, this story was all about Ladies Night, with the West Virginia VIP Horsemanship Award going to Susan Runco of Coleswood Farm.

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— Looking Back —

10 years ago

■ Bowie Training Center-based Dance to Bristol won Saratoga's Grade 1 Ballerina – her seventh consecutive win for Maryland owner Susan Wantz and fifth in a stakes, three graded. Trained by Ollie Figgins III, the 4-year-old Speightstown filly was purchased by Susan's husband David for $42,000 at the 2011 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale and made her debut that September at Charles Town. In 18 starts, she was first or second 17 times and had raced once a month in 2013.

■ Branching out briefly to Pennsylvania to take advantage of the state's lucrative breeders fund program, Eclipse Award-winning owners/breeders Ken and Sarah Ramsey watched one of their first foals born in the Keystone State, 4-year-old Real Solution, take the Grade 1 Arlington Million after a stewards' ruling awarded him the victory. Real Solution was from the third crop of the couple's champion turf horse and sire Kitten's Joy.

■ Jonathan Sheppard won the New York Turf Writers Cup-G1 with Italian Wedding, the trainer's 14th win in the race. Sheppard's list started in 1979 with Leaping Frog and included Eclipse Award winners Flatterer and Mixed Up.

Sheppard added one more victory in 2019 with Winston C (Ire). Sheppard retired in 2020 and the next year the race was renamed for him. Sheppard died Aug. 27 at 82. His obituary appears on page 69.

■ In memory of renowned bloodstock agent Baden P. "Buzz" Chace, who died at 72 that August, the magazine shared a few of his thoughts accumulated over the years. One was titled "Time" – "Benny [Perkins Sr.] said to me last night, 'Buzz, I'm 71 years old.' Now, I can remember Benny, seemed like just yesterday. We were sharing a room here at the Hilton and he said, 'Buzz, next year I'm going to be the big 6-0.' It's funny how fast things go."

Longtime New Jersey trainer Ben Perkins Sr. was 89 when he died on Aug. 30. His obituary appears on page 69.

■ Joe Clancy remembered E. Allen Murray Jr. following his death that August at age 80. With his wife Audrey, the lifelong horse lover created Murmur Farm in the early 1960s. The couple stood at their Maryland farm such stallions as Norquestor, Deerhound and Our Emblem, the latter making headlines in 2002 as the sire of that year's Kentucky Derby/Preakness winner War Emblem. Josh Pons remembered Murray at the memorial as: "a born horseman, not by family, but by temperament, by circumstance."

25 years ago

■ Virginia was well represented during the National Racing Hall of Fame induction ceremony with grass champion Fort Marcy (bred and owned by Paul Mellon) and historic inductee Ansel Williamson, who trained Aristides to win the first Kentucky Derby, each born in the state. Derby/Belmont winner Riva Ridge, while foaled in Kentucky, was bred and owned by Meadow Stable of Doswell, Va.

■ Monmouth Park lured Caroline and Sonny Hine's Skip Away, the leading candidate for 1998 Horse of the Year honors, to its Philip H. Iselin Handicap-G2 by doubling the purse to $500,000 and lengthening it to 1⅛ miles. Loaded with 131 pounds, 17-20 more than six rivals, Skip Away nosed out Stormin Fever. The victory pushed Skip Away's career earnings past $9 million.

■ Alexander Mackay-Smith, longtime editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse* and renowned as a steeplechasing and foxhunting scholar/writer, died at age 95. While serving as editor of *The Chronicle* from 1952 to 1976, Mackay-Smith also founded or co-founded the Virginia Thoroughbred Association, United States Pony Clubs and U.S. Combined Training Association, as well as the National Sporting Library in Middleburg in collaboration with George Ohrstrom.

■ No Japanese-trained horse had won at the highest level outside that country until Virginia-bred Seeking the Pearl captured the Prix Maurice de Gheeston-G1 in France in August. A Group 1 winner in Japan, the Seeking the Gold filly was owned by Tomoko Uenaka, who purchased her privately from breeder Joe Allbritton's Lazy Lane Farm after she failed to meet her reserve at the 1995 Keeneland July sale.

■ Tim Capps reflected on the legend of Native Dancer, the champion and leading sire who made Maryland home. The Sagamore great was foaled in Kentucky, but was raised and stood at stud at the Glyndon farm, and was buried there after his death in 1967 at age 17. He sired 304 named foals.

How deep is Native Dancer's influence? In the pedigree of this year's Kentucky Derby winner Mage, Native Dancer appears behind all eight horses in Mage's third generation.

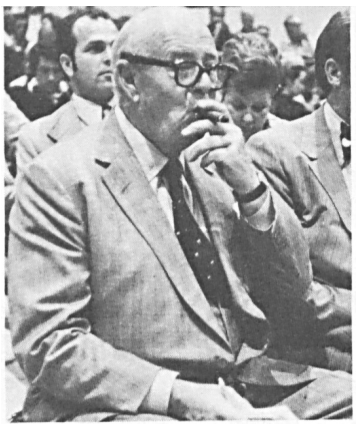
■ Julie Krone, at age 35, ranked fourth in the Monmouth rider standings and recorded five stakes wins.

Krone was a three-time leading rider at Monmouth – the 1998 meet was the last she rode at the New Jersey track.

■ Charles Town raised its purses 10 percent in September, the seventh increase that year and elevating the daily distribution to $50,000. Still, the underpayment for the year showed no sign of decreasing. As of late August, it stood at more than $1.2 million.

50 years ago

■ The top attraction of the two-day Eastern Fall Yearling sale in Timonium was E.P. Taylor's 22-horse Windfields Farm consignment. A crowd of more than 1,500 attended the record-breaking sale in which the Windfields horses generated more than 25 percent of the gross. Fifteen of the 191 yearlings sold were from the Chesapeake City farm, including the sales topper – a Northern Dancer colt out of *Queen's Statute purchased by Bayard Sharp for $120,000. It was the third Eastern Fall Sales in which Taylor had been a consignor, and it marked a personal high in gross receipts and average for the Maryland auction. Windfields yearlings sold for $425,000 and averaged $28,333 (the overall sales average, a new record, was $7,863).



E.P. Taylor was on hand to watch his yearlings sell at the Timonium sale.

■ Taylor added sire power to the Windfields roster when purchasing top-class Tentam for $2.2 million. The 4-year-old son of Intentionally, one of the top grass horses in the nation that year, was to be syndicated and would stand his first season in 1974.

Also new to stud was King's Bishop, who was retiring to Allaire duPont's Woodstock Farm in Chesapeake City. Round Table's 4-year-old son was owned by duPont, Buckingham Farm, Shenstone Farm and Windfields Farm.

King's Bishop would move to Windfields the following year. Both died in 1981 at the age of 12, Tentam siring seven crops and King's Bishop eight, and left indelible marks as sires and broodmare sires.

■ Eugene Mori's Alma North captured Atlantic City's Matchmaker Stakes over a field that included Susan's Girl and Light Hearted while equaling the track record. With her 22nd win from 74 starts, and seventh stakes win of the year, Alma North boosted her earnings to $483,183 – behind only Politely's $552,972 among Maryland-bred mares. The owners of the top four finishers had a choice of service to Northern Dancer, Hoist the Flag, *Cougar II or Silent Screen. Mori selected Northern Dancer (to be used for another mare since Alma North was a daughter of the Windfields stallion).

■ The Jockey Club reported a record number of 25,397 registered 2-year-olds (foals of 1971). They also revealed that California surpassed Kentucky as the nation's leading producer. Maryland, fourth behind Florida, had 1,355 foals born in 1971, the largest in its history and close to tripling the number from a decade earlier. Virginia ranked fifth (1,027), Pennsylvania 16th (395) and New Jersey 18th (358). Other regional states were South Carolina with 172; West Virgina, 113; North Carolina, 84; and Delaware, 4.

■ Syndicate-owned Knightly Manner was sold to R.A. Fowlston, owner and manager of Britton House Stud in England. The 12-year-old multiple stakes-winning son of Round Table had stood at Merryland Farm in Hydes, Md., since he was retired at 5.

Knightly Manner's best runner was Virginia-bred Stonewalk, who was 2 at the time of the sale. Stonewalk would go on to win six stakes, all graded, place in three Grade 1s and earn more than $500,000. Knightly Manner eventually stood in Australia.

75 years ago

■ William duPont Jr. – "one of the most versatile and thoroughgoing sportsmen in American racing" – was to be the honored guest of the annual Thoroughbred Club of America dinner in Lexington, Ky. The list of previous honorees included Col. E.R. Bradley, William Woodward, Samuel D. Riddle and Arthur B. Hancock.

DuPont was the leading authority on steeplechase courses, an organizer and director of the Delaware Park organization, and a member of The Jockey Club, National Steeplechase and Hunt Association, National Horse Show Association, American Thoroughbred Breeders Association and other organizations. His Foxcatcher Farms in Maryland was the scene of the Foxcatcher National Cup Steeplechase.

■ The Maryland Racing Commission, under chairman Stuart Janney, announced revised rules to prevent stimulant drugs in racing, and to provide punishment for those found guilty of drugging their horses. The new regulations included all horses be subject to pre-race testing and, while in the receiving barn, be attended by a groom or representative of the owner and trainer, a change from being overseen by special police. Post-race tests would be conducted on all winners and any other horses which the stewards may select for such tests.

■ The sale of Gallorette by William Brann to Marie Moore of The Plains, Va., came as something of a surprise. The amount involved was not made public, but Brann let it be known that the offer was such that it could not be turned down. Moore planned to race the daughter of *Challenger II for the remainder of the season, under trainer Ed Christmas' care, and then retire her to High Hope Farm in Kentucky.

Brann pointed out he had 23 daughters of *Challenger II, including sisters to Challedon and Pictor, and that he merely was overstocked along those blood lines.

■ Humphrey S. Finney's entry in the Editor's Saddle Bag Sept. 14 noted an end of an era: "Away early this morning to Front Royal, for an inspection of the horses [to be sold] at the Agriculture Remount Station, as the old Quartermaster Depot is now known. This will soon be a thing of the past, as far as horsebreeding goes . . . Some good individuals are in the lot, almost all of which is from the stock captured by the Army and imported in 1945 and 1946. Though well-bred, the fact that the stock is unregistered will limit its appeal."

Time Piece

In 1984, six years before he would be inducted into racing's Hall of Fame but well into his rise to the top of American steeplechasing, trainer Jonathan Sheppard took a break between saddling horses in the paddock at Fair Hill. The Englishman turned Pennsylvanian dominated jump racing by training the winners of 13 Eclipse Awards, but also found a spot among elite trainers on the flat with a deep stable that included two other Eclipse Award champions, future leading sire Storm Cat and others. Sheppard, who retired from training after the 2020 season, died in August at age 82.

Marylander Cappy Jackson was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the early 1970s, when the legendary Peter Winants took her under his wing. She donated her equine work to the Maryland Horse Library in 2022 as the Cappy Jackson Collection, now part of the Library's Photographer Archiving Project.

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